

Israeli police question Jews for praying near Al Aqsa Mosque

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli police said they questioned nine Jewish extremists Sunday for praying near the entrance to the Al Aqsa Mosque complex, which was built over the ruins of the Second Hebrew Temple. "Nine members of the Temple Mount Faithful were questioned after praying near the Al Aqsa Mosque complex and refusing to leave the area," a police spokesman said. "An investigation has been opened" into their behaviour, he added. The Temple Mount Faithful, like other Jewish extremist groups, hope to rebuild the ancient temple on the location containing the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. They and other Jewish extremists make regular attempts to pray at the mosque, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, despite a police ban.

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Netanyahu maintains silence while his aides pledge to continue attacks against Hamas

Combined agency dispatches

EMERGING FROM a three-day holiday for the Jewish New Year, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other senior ministers maintained a stony silence over Israel's role in the failed Sept. 25 murder attempt in Amman against Khaled Misha'al, the Hamas politburo chief.

Mr. Netanyahu met his senior security aides and summoned Israel's top opposition leader Sunday in a bid to limit the crisis sparked by the botched assassination bid by presumed Israeli agents in Jordan, Israel Radio said.

"Israel is prevented at this stage from making references to reports about action against Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al," Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh said after a cabinet meeting.

Mr. Naveh did tell reporters however that Mr. Misha'al "is considered the number one figure in Hamas and is responsible for the murder of many innocent

Israeli civilians."

"The government's obligation is to protect the lives of its citizens and to wage an uncompromising campaign against terrorism," he added.

Mr. Netanyahu's advisor, David Bar-Ilan, went further towards implicitly confirming the Israeli attempt on Mr. Misha'al, whom he described as both the Hamas political leader "and the activator of its military wing."

"Israel will continue to fight terrorism wherever it is, its long arm will reach terrorists wherever they are," he said in an interview with London-based Worldwide Television News.

"The fight against terrorism is an ongoing process. Sometimes we have triumphs and sometimes setbacks, but that will not change our policies," Mr. Bar-Ilan said.

"We hope that all governments that seek peace will join us in this fight because terrorism and peace cannot be compatible," he said.

In London, the Sunday Times newspaper reported

that Mr. Netanyahu overruled objections from his own secret service to order the embarrassingly botched assassination bid (see below).

Shimon Shamir, the former Israeli ambassador to Jordan, praised King Hussein Sunday on the way he is dealing with the difficult issue while hailing his own prime minister for his role in the affair.

"Were King Hussein to come out clearly against Israel or against the Israeli prime minister or against the security arms of Israel, it would obligate him to very, very specific actions. This way he leaves himself the maximum range of manoeuvrability," Mr. Shamir told Israel Radio.

On the presumed Mossad assassination attempt he said: "I would say this was carried out by someone who doesn't understand what peace is," Mr. Shamir said adding, that "the damage is huge. There is harm to the foundations of peace."

(See Israeli press review on page 12)

Ross to attend first talks between PNA, Israel today

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross will join Israelis and Palestinians on Monday at their first talks since a six-month-old stalemate kept the sides from implementing existing peace deals.

Palestinian National Authority (PNA) officials tried on Sunday to dampen expectations of any breakthroughs in the talks which would tackle such issues as a Palestinian seaport and airport and safe passages between Gaza and the West Bank.

They said talks on crucial interim issues such as Jewish settlements and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from West Bank areas still under occupation would be discussed in Washington only next week.

"We don't expect any breakthroughs in Monday's talks because the U.S. is not willing to apply any kind of pressure on Israel to implement the accords," said Nabil Abu Rudeineh, an aide to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

On the eve of the talks, Palestinian officials also renewed calls Sunday for a strong European Union (EU) role to balance U.S. mediation of the peace process.

Saeed Erakat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said Palestinian President Arafat had asked Washington to accept the EU as "full partners" when Israelis and Palestinians tackle negotiations on a permanent peace settlement.

"This is essential for balance in the negotiations," said negotiator Erakat,

reflecting PNA criticism that U.S. mediators have failed in the past to deal strongly enough with Israeli violations of interim peace agreements.

Mr. Erakat said such Israeli violations, notably the building of Jewish housing in disputed areas and a refusal to carry out pledged troop withdrawals from West Bank rural areas, were likely to prevent "real progress" when negotiations resume on Monday.

Last week in New York, after meeting top PNA negotiator Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announced that Israeli and Palestinian negotiating committees would resume work on implementing issues left over from existing deals.

Ms. Albright had said that there was agreement on her proposal for a "time-out" on Jewish settlement activities on Arab land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip but the sides had to negotiate the content of the time-out.

A PNA official said the next round of talks, to be held in Washington on October 13-17, would focus on agreeing on the concepts of a temporary freeze in settlement expansion, on security cooperation and the concept and scope of further redeployments as well as the resumption of final status talks.

The PNA wants Israel to implement three promised troop withdrawals from the West Bank in parallel to final status talks which have not resumed under the right-wing prime minister's government.

Netanyahu blamed personally for bungled attack in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, overruled objections from the head of the Israeli secret service Mossad to order an attempt on the life of Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al in Jordan. The Sunday Times reported yesterday.

The British weekly newspaper said that the bungled attack on Mr. Misha'al, in which Mossad agents carrying fake Canadian passports sprayed a poisonous chemical into his ear, is already regarded as one of the most embarrassing incidents in the history of its ruthless efficiency.

The details of Mr. Netanyahu's alleged involvement were disclosed to The Sunday Times by Israeli intelligence sources who regard the operation as the most ill-considered ever undertaken by Mossad, the report said.

"The saga began 12 days ago at a tempestuous meeting over lunch between Netanyahu and Danny Yatom, head of Mossad at the prime minister's home. Netanyahu is said to have demanded revenge for the deaths of 24 Israelis in Hamas bombings in July and September, and for an attack on the bodyguards of a cultural attaché at the newly opened Israeli embassy in Amman three days earlier."

the report said.

"According to the sources, Netanyahu said he wanted to 'knock down' a Hamas leader in Amman. But anyone," he is said to have added," the report added.

"Netanyahu has insisted ... and to have telephoned Yatom repeatedly, increasing the pressure for swift action. 'Bibi' [the prime minister's nickname] wanted a nice gift for Rosh Hashana [the Jewish New Year]. What he got was one of the most shameful and stupid Mossad operations ever," said one officer in the service," the newspaper reported, quoting Mr. Netanyahu as admitting on Saturday that there had been an "operational failure" but saying the attack had been "essential."

For the prime minister, the newspaper said, a four-day New Year holiday that ends today has so far ensured that he has faced relatively little criticism at home. "With the government back in session, however, his opponents will be demanding explanations. Security sources in Israel believe Yatom may become a scapegoat. The scandal, they say, is unlikely to be so easily resolved."

Netanyahu's responsibility affirmed

Meanwhile, Ze'ev Schiff, the respected Israeli military affairs correspondent, wrote that the botched assassination

attempt "must go down as one of the worst operational failures in the history of Israel's intelligence services, and it has caused the country serious strategic damage."

"It is inconceivable that a failure of such magnitude and such strategic blindness be allowed to pass without those responsible resigning or being fired. In well-ordered countries, prime ministers and cabinet ministers resign over such things, not just the intelligence chiefs," he said in an article published by Haaretz.

"No organisation's leader can remain on the job after such a scorching failure," Mr. Schiff wrote. "But the full responsibility belongs at the top — whoever approved the action and whoever initiated it — namely the prime minister, who is responsible for strategy, and for the immense failures beyond the operative one." He concluded by saying: "Any investigation has to determine whether the prime minister had any partners in the decision among his ministers. The rules dictate that other ministers should be informed of such an operation. Were they included in the decision? What is clear is that not all the other intelligence agencies, such as the IDF Intelligence Unit and the Shin Bet, nor their chiefs, were party to the secret. They were also taken by surprise."

Gunmen attack U.N. office in Baghdad

CAIRO (AP) — Four unidentified gunmen hurled grenades and fired bullets at an office of the U.N. oil-for-food programme in Baghdad, destroying and damaging at least three vehicles in the compound, officials said Sunday.

No one was injured except one of the attackers who was overpowered and taken into custody by the Iraqi army, said a U.N. statement sent here. The remaining three gunmen fled, it said.

The attack was Saturday night at the World Health Organisation's (WHO) headquarters in Baghdad, which houses an office for U.N. officials monitoring the oil-for-food programme.

According to preliminary reports the four men neutralised the guards, lobbed grenades and also opened fire at the WHO building, the statement said.

Eric Falk, spokesman for the oil-for-food programme, told the Associated Press in Dubai that the attack came after office hours and only guards were present at the building.

The U.N.'s humanitarian coordinator in Baghdad, Denis Halliday, condemned the attack, the first ever at a U.N. building in Iraq, the statement said.

"It is the Iraqi government's responsibility to protect U.N. personnel and property against any harm and Mr. Halliday has asked for an urgent meeting at the

highest levels with the Iraqi leaders in order to express his concern," said the statement.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

Iraq has been under U.N. sanctions banning the sale of oil, its economic mainstay, since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. But a special U.N. programme, put in place in December 1996, allows Iraq to sell \$1 billion of crude every 90 days to buy needed food and medicine under close U.N. supervision.

The WHO building is located in the Al Wahda district, where an Iranian opposition group in exile is based.

Iraq scoffs at timing of U.N. protest over weapons inspections

BAGHDAD (AFP) — An Iraqi official said Sunday that a U.N. protest over its alleged obstruction of arms inspections was deliberately timed to keep sanctions in place.

Such protests were "predictable and have been common practice" before each U.N. Security Council review of the U.N. sanctions, the official told Agence France Presse, asking not to be named.

The protest last week by the U.N. commission tasked with dismantling Iraq that its inspectors were denied access to three suspected arms sites came as commission officials prepare to report on Iraqi compliance progress to the U.N. Security Council later this month.

"The U.S. administration and its allies at the United Nations have been putting on this same act for years to prevent any serious effort to ease the embargo," the Iraqi official said.

Baghdad has not officially reacted to last week's protest from the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM). But the newspaper Babel, run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, said Sunday that "new manoeuvres are underway ahead of the U.N. debate."

UNSCOM chief Richard Butler said the incidents took place on Sept. 27 and last Monday and Wednesday,

"They are not serious enough for me to go to the Security Council before we go there in a week and a half from now," he said.

Mr. Butler is due to give a six-month progress report to the Security Council on Iraq's disarmament and its cooperation with UNSCOM by next Saturday.

The 15-member Security Council has threatened to impose more sanctions on Iraq this month if Mr. Butler reports that Iraq has continued to deny access to UNSCOM inspectors.

Iraq has been under a tough U.N. sanctions regime since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The oil embargo can only be lifted when the U.N. arms inspectors certify that all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction have been dismantled in line with U.N. resolutions.

Mr. Butler said he wrote a "very serious letter" of protest to Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz.

"I indicated to the deputy prime minister that there are issues of access to sites that I want him and I to work out together, to keep this cool and easy, because we've got serious work to do and I want to get on with it," he said.

Iraq argued that the three blocked inspections were of "presidential/residential sites" and therefore out of bounds for UNSCOM.

No injuries in apparent bus bombing in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (AP) — In an apparently bungled attack, an Arab man set off a bomb aboard a Tel Aviv bus, causing a small explosion in which no one was injured, police said. Police spokeswoman Linda Menuhin said the man aroused the driver's suspicion when he boarded the bus on a busy eight-lane highway in north Tel Aviv. When the driver started to question him the man placed an object in the bus trash bin and fled. The passengers were taken off the bus, and then an explosion was heard from the trash bin, the police statement said. It said there were no injuries, but gave no other details. The assailant was described as "a member of a minority group" — a term used commonly by police to refer to Arabs. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.



GETTING READY FOR SHEIKH YASSIN: The wife of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin holds up his poster Sunday as the family home is painted in preparation for his return to the Gaza Strip. Hamas supporters paint his home with graffiti which translates to 'Welcome Back, Sheikh Yassin' (Reuters photo)

Israel will not permit Yassin back home until release of two detained in Amman — official

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel will not allow the founder of the Islamic group Hamas to return to Gaza unless Jordan releases two men reportedly involved in an attack against a Hamas official, an Israeli official said Sunday.

"Until the two are released, he is not going to Gaza," the Israeli official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Reuters.

A Hamas leader in Gaza, Abdul Aziz Rantissi, told Reuters both the Palestinian National Authority and Jordan

had confirmed to him that Sheikh Ahmad Yassin would return to Gaza on Monday. He warned Israel against blocking Yassin's return.

"I've got official information... from Jordan and the Palestinian Authority that confirms the return of the sheikh. Such (Israeli) distortions aim to affect the masses who are going to come to receive the sheikh," he said.

"Any delay of the arrival of the sheikh tomorrow would be considered by

Hamas a very serious issue that threatens the sheikh's fate, hence Israel will shoulder the full responsibility for what is going to happen in the region."

The Palestinian news agency Wafa said on Sunday that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's aide Tayeb Abdul Rahim would receive the founder of Hamas in Gaza on Monday. President Arafat was expected to remain in the West Bank enclave of Ramallah where he spent Sunday.

Family of prisoner in Israel asks King to assist in releasing him

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The family of a Jordanian imprisoned in Israel Sunday urged His Majesty King Hussein to help release their jailed son, who is serving a life imprisonment sentence.

Ahmad Ajlouni said that his family sent a message to the King seeking the release of his brother Sultan Ajlouni, 23, from his jail in Ashkelon.

This message is "an echo of a cry by one of your detained children in Israeli jails and who has been in jail for the last seven years," the one-page statement said.

"I, your Majesty, seek your efforts to help release my son, to obtain a special pardon, from Israeli officials. I voice hope Your Majesty will take into consideration my age and my weakness. He will not be let down, be who seeks

your help," the statement signed by Sultan's father, Taha, said.

Mr. Ajlouni told the Jordan Times that they were encouraged by the release of Hamas founder, Ahmad Yassin from his jail following a repeated call from King Hussein to the Israeli government.

"Since the release of Sheikh Yassin, we found new hope of releasing

(Continued on page 2)

Bomb kills mother, son in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (R) — A Lebanese woman and her teenage son were killed by a roadside bomb blast in south Lebanon Sunday, pro-Israeli militia sources said.

The South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia sources said the bomb went off close to Khadja Al Haj Nasrallah, 45, and her son Ali, 14, when they were on the way to the village of Markaba from their home village of Houla inside Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon.

It was not immediately known who was responsible for the blast.

Hizbollah blamed Israel for the bomb attack.

"The crime was executed on an Israeli decision taken by the head of the Zionist state Benjamin Netanyahu," Sheikh Nabil Kawouk, Hizbollah leader in south Lebanon said in a statement.

"[It the attack] aims at eliminating the April ceasefire understanding," Sheikh Kawouk added.

The U.S. brokered ceasefire understanding ended a 17-day Israeli onslaught on Lebanon in which 200 people — mostly civilians — were killed in April 1996. The agreement bans attacks on civilian targets on both sides of the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Hizbollah (Party of God) fighters are fighting to oust Israeli and SLA forces from the 15 kilometres wide Israeli occupied territory.

Turk planes bomb Kurds in north Iraq

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Turkey sent fighter-bombers to bomb Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrilla camps in northern Iraq Sunday as its cross-border military incursion against the rebels moved into its third week.

Six F-16 fighter-bombers took off from Diyarbakir in southeastern Turkey and headed towards the border with Iraq, witnesses said. Military sources said the planes were on bombing missions against rebel

camps near Hakurk in northern Iraq. Around 15,000 Turkish troops entered Iraq more than two weeks ago in a push to try to dislodge PKK units from the mountainous area which they use to mount raids on Turkey in their campaign for self-rule in the mainly Kurdish south-east.

The operation has been repeatedly condemned by Baghdad and much of the Arab World.

Turkey's state-run Anato-

lian news agency said Sunday PKK units were fleeing from the Turkish aerial bombing towards Iran and territory controlled by an Iraqi Kurd rival of Turkey's allies in the region.

Iran and Syria deny frequent accusations by Ankara that they support and give refuge to the rebels. Turkey said Friday Iranian and Syrian troops had massed troops near the Kurdish region of northern

(Continued on page 2)

Sudan gives students 2 days to report for military duty

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudanese army, fighting rebels on two fronts, has ordered high school students to report for military duty by Tuesday, a spokesman said.

After undergoing two months of basic training, a large number of a total of 65,000 high school students have failed to report to military units to which they have been assigned, an armed forces spokesman, General Mohamed Al

Sanousi Ahmad, said Saturday.

The students knew they would be sent to war fronts in eastern and southern Sudan.

Some ran away from Khartoum Airport to avoid being airlifted to Juba in the south, he said.

Mr. Ahmad spoke at a press conference that Education Minister Keshour Kuku called to announce the results of high school gradu-

ation examinations for which the students sat in April.

He said individual results would be released at the military units to which the recruited students are attached.

Mr. Kuku said that out of a total 147,470, some 98,484 students passed the final examination. That is 66.9 per cent, compared to last year's 66 per cent.

The minister announced in

his televised conference the names of the top twenty students and the top twenty schools. Even those top students will get the details of their results only at military units.

The vice-chancellor of the University of Khartoum Saturday declared that the new candidates would be admitted to the university next July after finishing their compulsory national service.



SADAT REMEMBERED: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (left) shakes hands with Gamal Sadat, son of late President Anwar Sadat, after laying a wreath at his tomb on Sunday. Sadat, the first Arab leader to sign peace with Israel, was assassinated in 1981 during celebrations of the October 6 war (Reuters photo)

Egypt releases eight Islamists

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's prosecutor general on Sunday released eight members of the influential and illegal Muslim Brotherhood who were detained two months ago on charges of spreading the group's ideology, security sources said.

They said the prosecutor also extended the detention period for 14 other Brotherhood members who were among a group of 34 arrested in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria in August.

The sources said they did

not know the fate of the remaining 12 members arrested in the security sweep but Brotherhood spokesman Mamoun Al Hodeibi told Reuters police had earlier released other members of the same group.

"I can't remember why they were arrested. We've got used to their arrest-release campaigns," Mr. Hodeibi said. Police said they arrested the 34 Brotherhood members because they were planning to spread their ideas among university students.

Family of prisoner in Israel asks King to assist in releasing him

(Continued from page 1)

our son. We believe that it is a chance that His Majesty will interfere to release his Jordanian sons in Israeli jails," Mr. Ahmad said.

On Saturday, Minister State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi told reporters that Israel "is expected to release Jordanian detainees from its jails soon." He declined to say how many will be released or when.

Mr. Ajlouni added that his brother was sentenced by an Israeli military court for life imprisonment in 1990 for allegedly masterminding an attack against Israel.

He added that his brother did not receive a fair trial and the only channel of communications they have with him is through the International Committee for the Red Cross.

There are at least 21 Jordanian prisoners in Israel. Ten prisoners are reportedly detained in Ashkelon prison, while another ten are imprisoned in Nafha and Bersheba prisons.

Those who are jailed in Ashkelon are: Abdul Rahman Afan, Bassam Tbaileh, Sultan Ajlouni, Fadi Faraj, Fou'ad Shara'a, Jamal Mikahel, Bilal Sayid, Abdullah Shetwi, Bajis Bani Fadil and Khalid Abu Lihyeh.

Those in Nafha and Bersheba jails are: Khalid and Salim Abu Ghali, Ibrahim Galion, Mohammad Faris Dakhah, Ahmad Talib Marei, Yasser Swellim, Radi Toubani, Amin Sami, Zahi Noubani and Haidam Al Nour.

In the past two years, Israel released about ten Jordanian prisoners from its jails.

Palestinian budget deficit at \$116m — PNA minister

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The budget deficit of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has reached \$116 million, largely due to Israel's withholding of tax funds, the PNA finance minister said Saturday.

Mohammad Nashashibi told a press conference in Gaza City that the deficit "currently stands at \$116 million and I fear it will go higher if Israel does not transfer all our funds."

He said Israel has so far transferred 40 per cent of Palestinian tax and customs funds which it had frozen for over two months in a bid to force the PNA into cracking down on Islamists.

Last Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed to release another \$17 million in funds as a confidence-building gesture, which he said brought the

total transferred to half of what is due to the PNA.

But Mr. Nashashibi said that "with interest which has accumulated the total remaining funds amount to \$110 million." Israeli officials have put the figure at much lower, but refuse to give an exact amount.

Meanwhile, donor nations have handed over only 12.5 per cent of the funds they had promised the PNA for 1997 and 1998, according to Mr. Nashashibi. He said that a total \$845 million had been received from donor nations so far.

Under economic agreements, Israel collects tax funds from Palestinians and then hands them over to the PNA. Israel froze the tax funds after the Jerusalem bombing in July.

Arab League denounces U.N. sanctions against Arab countries

BEIRUT (AFP) — The chief of the 22-member Arab League Saturday denounced U.N. sanctions against three Arab countries, saying they are too tough.

"The international sanctions have lasted too long and are too exaggerated," Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid told the Arab newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat, while adding that Arab nations "must respect the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council."

The U.N. has imposed sanctions on Iraq, Libya and Sudan for violating

U.N. resolutions. Speaking of Iraq, Dr. Meguid said that since Baghdad "is trying to abide by the U.N. resolutions, there is no reason to maintain the sanctions."

Baghdad has been under an economic, air and military embargo since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990 but the sanctions were partially eased in December under an accord allowing Iraq to sell limited quantities of oil to buy food and medicines.

Dr. Meguid denied that Arab states decided at a recent ministerial council meeting in Cairo to bypass

the air embargo on Libya. The air embargo was imposed in 1992 due to Libya's refusal to turn over to the U.S. and Britain two suspects in the downing of a Pan-Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

The Arab League chief said that the Arab states have decided to act in concert within the framework of the U.N. to lift the sanctions on Libya, but not to bypass them.

Turning to next month's controversial economic summit in Qatar, Dr. Meguid said he sees "no obstacles to holding it if

tangible progress takes place in the [Arab-Israeli] peace process." But he added that if the peace process remains deadlocked he saw "no way the summit could be held."

Syria and several other Arab states have said they will boycott the Nov. 16 to 18 regional economic summit over Israel's presence. Damascus has called for the cancellation of the conference, saying that holding it is a violation of Arab League resolutions which call for freezing relations with Israel.

Turk planes bomb Kurds in north Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq in an apparent response to the Turkish offensive.

Syria denied the report Saturday.

Patrols by Western warplanes over northern Iraq have allowed Iraq's Kurds to stay out of Baghdad's control since the end of the 1991 Gulf war. Ankara says the lack of authority in the region has allowed the Turkey-based PKK to flourish there.

More than 26,000 people

have been killed in 13 years of armed conflict between the PKK and the Turkish armed forces.

Turkey said Friday it has killed 415 PKK members in northern Iraq since the operation began late last month.

A statement by the PKK Saturday said it had killed 38 Turkish soldiers and 124 Iraqi Kurdish militia allied to Ankara for the loss of 26 of its own fighters in a week of fighting in Iraq.

Kuwaiti refinery workers 'call off' strike to continue talks

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Union leaders have formally called off strike action by refinery workers as a condition to continue talks on Sunday with state refiner Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), officials said.

The four-day strike was already suspended last Tuesday but "called off" Saturday, a KNPC official said, adding that abandoning the strike action was a demand laid down by the company and the government.

But union officials said industrial action could be restarted if talks break down. "We will go back to the strike if there is no success in

the talks," said Saud Al Farhan, KNPC labour syndicate spokesman.

But Mr. Farhan and other union officials said this was now unlikely.

"The negotiations are going smoothly now. There are still one or two items which we will try to finish today," said Hamad Al Suwain, chairman of the KNPC labour syndicate, as talks restarted with managers.

Union leaders and managers held their first round of talks Wednesday, followed by another round Saturday. The union said the talks were "positive" and brought "progress."

About 100 export workers at Al Ahmadi refinery, where 1,300 people are employed, went on strike on Sept. 27. But operations at the refinery were unaffected during the four days of industrial action that followed.

Unions had also threatened further action at Kuwait's other two refineries, which KNPC officials said may have caused disruptions if the action had gone ahead.

Union officials said they have drawn up a list of 10 demands, including promotions for long service and an end to a written and oral aptitude test that KNPC introduced for regrading.

'U.S. needlessly raises Gulf tensions'

DUBAI (R) — The United States has needlessly raised tensions in the Gulf by rushing an aircraft carrier to the region, one of the leading newspapers in the Gulf said on Sunday.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen last week ordered the carrier Nimitz to skip a port call in Singapore and move to the Gulf "at best speed" in response to Iranian air raids on bases inside Iraq run by armed opposition forces.

At the same time, Washington told Tehran Iranian aircraft could be shot down if they violated the flight ban.

The carrier's group of seven warships is now due to arrive in the Gulf to join existing U.S. naval forces in the waterway by the mid-

dle of October, four or five days earlier than originally scheduled.

"The U.S. already has an operational force in the region to patrol the 'no-fly zone' inside Iraq, so Nimitz could have got to the Gulf a few days later than planned without creating a crisis," Gulf News said in an editorial.

The English-language daily said the "no-fly zone" was a controversial ban imposed by the U.S. and Britain against Iraqi air attacks on the minorities living in the north and south of the country.

"It amounts to a questionable curtailment of Iraq's sovereignty and must not be used to threaten the territorial integrity of the country," Gulf News said.

It said the way the U.S. enforced the no-fly zones — one in the north declared in 1991 to protect Kurds and one in the south imposed in 1992 after Iraqi air force raids on Iraqi Shiites — was a major reproach in itself.

"Why is Turkey being allowed to violate Iraq's sovereignty by flying into the 'no-fly zone' in the north of Iraq and attacking its Kurdish rebels from the air and on the ground without any action being taken by the U.S.?" Gulf News asked.

"If and when the Nimitz sails into the Mediterranean to warn Turkey against violation of the 'no-fly zone' in the north, then American credibility will be better served than it is now."

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PROGRAMME TWO

14:10...A Show With the Mouse
14:30...Cowboys of the Moo Mesa
15:00...Gillette Sports Special
15:30...Riding High
16:00...Animal Show
16:30...Ocean Girl
17:15...French Programmes
19:00...News in French
19:15...French programme
19:30...News Headline
19:35...Neighbours
20:00...Comedy — Murphy Brown
20:30...Babylon 5
21:10...Highlander
22:00...News in English
22:30...Emergency Room
23:15...Homicide
23:59...End of TX.

PRAYER TIMES

04:11...Fajr
05:28...Sunrise/Duha
11:24...Dhuhr
14:44...Asr
17:20...Maghreh
18:36...Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swefieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 688404.

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.

654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.

675691.

The Evangelical Local Church

in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel.

614190.

scattered showers in the northern

and central regions and winds

westerly moderate to active. In

Aqaba, temperatures will drop,

skies becoming cloudy, and winds

northerly moderate to active.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman...13/22

Aqaba...19/32

Deserts...12/25

Jordan Valley...18/29

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 25, Aqaba 34 Humidity

readings: Amman 45 per cent.

Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Issam Al Asmar...890504

Dr. Youssef Naser...751144

Dr. Khalid Klob...816715

Dr. Nidal Al As'ad...751672

Firas pharmacy...661912

Ferdous pharmacy...778336

Al Asema pharmacy...637055

Nairookh pharmacy...623672

Al Salam pharmacy...636730

Yacoub pharmacy...644945

Shmeisani pharmacy...637660

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Min./Max. temp.

Amman...13/22

Aqaba...19/32

Deserts...12/25

Jordan Valley...18/29

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 25, Aqaba 34 Humidity

readings: Amman 45 per cent.

Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Issam Al Asmar...890504

Dr. Youssef Naser...751144

Dr. Khalid Klob...816715

Dr. Nidal Al As'ad...751672

Firas pharmacy...661912

Ferdous pharmacy...778336

Al Asema pharmacy...637055

Nairookh pharmacy...623672

Al Salam pharmacy...636730

Yacoub pharmacy...644945

Shmeisani pharmacy...637660

scattered showers in the northern

and central regions and winds

westerly moderate to active. In

Aqaba, temperatures will drop,

skies becoming cloudy, and winds

northerly moderate to active.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman...13/22

Aqaba...19/32

Deserts...12/25

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Yacoub pharmacy...644945

Shmeisani pharmacy...637660

Najib pharmacy...847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr...276852

Al Quds pharmacy...(-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Hafez Salafi...914144

Khalifeh pharmacy...985417

Water Authority...680100

J. Electricity Authority...815615

Electric Power Co...636381

RJ Flight Information...08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Luzmila...630195

Hussain Medical Centre...31381352

Khalidi Maternity...64428176

Al-Kileh Maternity...64244172

Jabal Amman Maternity...642362

Malhas, J. Amman...636140

Palestine, Shmeisani...607071

Shmeisani Hospital...669131

Al-Muasher Hospital...66722719

The Islamic, Abdali...66612637

Al-Ahli, Abdali...6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen...7771013

Al-Bashir...77511126

Army, Marka...89161125

Queen Alia Hospital...60224050

Amal Hospital...674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and

Special Surgery...



PRINCESS OPENS EXHIBITION: Her Royal Highness Princess Rahmah Bint Al Hassan Sunday opens the Japanese pottery exhibition, which was organised by the Japanese embassy for artist Soyo Opa at the Royal Cultural Centre. On display are 40 artworks. Attending the opening ceremony was Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Takayuki Kimura (Petra photo)

HUDC director to attend housing conference in Beirut

AMMAN (J.T.) — Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) Director General Yousef Hiyasat Sunday said he was going to Beirut today to attend a two-day conference on the Habitat (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements) Agenda, and a special one-day forum on sustainable urban environment, organised to mark World Habitat Day (WHD).

The meeting will tackle issues pertaining to providing shelter for all people, cooperation among various social sectors to improve the living environment, and the question of establishing companies owned jointly by governments and private sector construction companies in order to carry out the Habitat Agenda, he explained.

Jordan has made major strides in providing homes for the public, mainly the limited-income groups, and through the HUDC, it has constructed 125 housing estates at the overall cost of JD270 million, Mr. Hiyasat said.

Speaking on the eve of WHD, Mr. Hiyasat said these estates contained 34,000 units, which now house 30,000 families.

At present, HUDC is involved in constructing two housing estates of 2,000 housing units at the cost of JD8 million, he said, adding that work on these projects is expected to be completed during the first half of 1998.

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan sent out a message to the world on the eve of the occasion, stating: "Human beings continue to face a compelling challenge: how to make cities fit places to live, work, and dream. Nearly half of the world's population now lives in urban areas. Projects for the year 2025 show that two-thirds of people will be city dwellers."

Warning that in the coming years, the world will witness serious housing problems, Mr. Annan continued: "Already straining

under the pressures of meeting the peoples' needs for housing, jobs, and basic services, cities must also address the environmental and social consequences of rapid urbanisation."

Last year's U.N. Conference on Human Settlements, held in Istanbul, outlined a positive vision of urbanisation, the U.N. Secretary General said, adding "World Habitat Day this year should be an opportunity for people everywhere to continue looking at how they can contribute to implementation of Habitat Agenda — the comprehensive blueprint for creating sustainable human settlements in the 21st century."

Mr. Annan urged all member states and people "to deepen the partnerships they forged in Istanbul and to work closely with the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements and the rest of the U.N. system to improve the quality of life in all the world's cities."

Middle Eastern workshop focuses on needs, capacity-building of NGOs

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In order to discuss the needs and roles of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the development of the Middle East, a three-day workshop began Sunday in Amman, bringing together 20 specialists from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine.

"This workshop aims at presenting and sharing experiences of the NGO sector in the region and at discussing the needs and possibilities of regional cooperation," said Ulrich Vogt, the director and representative of the Friedrich-Naumann Foundation (FNF), which is organising this event.

He told the Jordan Times that the meeting focuses on capacity-building and networking for NGOs under a European Union co-financed project called BUNIAN.

The FNF, along with the International Management and Training Institute (IMTI) in Beirut, is pushing for the implementation of this two-year project, which is described as "ambitious and difficult"

by Dr. Vogt.

The FNF director stated that "our immediate objective in this workshop is to present our ideas on BUNIAN to these NGO representatives, and to come up with recommendations and assistance in its implementation."

Ghassan Sayah, vice president of the Lebanese NGO Forum, discussed local and regional networking activities. He spoke of the Lebanese experience with NGOs and said that Lebanon had two major umbrella groups for 40 NGOs.

Mr. Sayah told the Jordan Times that he did not "find regional networking satisfactory, as NGOs face many obstacles," relating the reasons for this to the lack of homogeneity at the regional level in forming a regional umbrella.

Consultant in the Follow-up Committee for the Arab NGO Symposium Amami Kandil spoke on the training needs of NGOs.

She remarked that there were about 100,000 NGOs in the Arab World, but "they are not distributed evenly. In Egypt alone, there are 15,000 NGOs, compared to the 700 NGOs

in Jordan."

Since the 90's, NGOs have gained more importance and more attention is being put on NGO capacity-building, which means the training, networking, researching and creation of a database on NGOs in the region, Dr. Kandil told the Jordan Times.

According to Anna Mansour, a consultant and trainer at IMTI, capacity-building "is the ability of individuals and organisations to perform functions and missions effectively, efficiently, and in a sustainable manner."

She told participants that there should be basic strategic elements for capacity-building and a specific process to be followed. In an interview with the Jordan Times, she stressed the need for the involvement of civil society in development to ensure its sustainability.

"The purpose of development is to offer people more options," she elaborated and concluded by saying "we have to weave development around people, not people around development."

Majali pledges land for journalists, hears request to lift suspension of weeklies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday promised the Jordan Press Association (JPA) that the government will offer journalists a piece of land on which they can construct a journalists' club.

The prime minister was addressing a meeting attended by JPA President Seif Sherif, association board members, and Minister of State for Informa-

tion Affairs Samir Mutawi.

The prime minister also said the government would examine recommendations by Dr. Mutawi for paying professional allowances to journalists employed by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Association sources said Mr. Sherif and the board members asked the government to reconsider its decision to suspend several weekly tabloids for their

failure to increase their paid capital to JD300,000.

Dr. Majali asked the JPA to contribute to the success of the upcoming general elections.

The prime minister also Sunday said the government desires fair and free elections, and stated that the government will remain neutral in the elections and will prevent civil servants from exploiting their official positions to

help any of the candidates.

Dr. Majali was speaking during a visit to the Ministry of Culture and Youth accompanied by his deputy, Abdullah Ensour.

The prime minister commended the ministry for implementing a programme benefiting the youth and organising events in which youths from Jordan and other Arab and foreign countries can meet for youth activities.

Minister of Culture and Youth Qasem Abu Ain briefed the prime minister on the outcome of his visit to Switzerland, where he met with the president of the International Olympic Committee to discuss Jordan's needs for youth training.

The ministry's secretary general Thounan Obaidat outlined the ministry's youth activities.

Teachers' meeting examining UNESCO proposals begins

AMMAN (Petra) — At Sunday's opening session of a four-day symposium marking Teachers' Day, Minister of Education and Higher Education Muthair Masri said the ministry is pursuing efforts to improve the social and living conditions of Jordanian teachers and provide them with higher academic qualifications.

Court sentences man for illegal political activities, two for drugs

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The State Security Court Sunday sentenced a 23-year old to a one-year prison term after being found guilty of belonging to an illegal party.

Jubra'il Hassan, who was originally sentenced to a two-year term for belonging to the Hizb Al Tahrir (Liberation Party), had his sentence reduced by the court tribunal to one year "because he is young and deserves a second chance."

The military tribunal, which was headed by Judge Colonel Yousef Faouri and Judges Aref Syout and Salem Saoudi, also convicted Mr. Hassan of distributing illegal pamphlets in

several mosques in Amman and sentenced him to one month in prison.

Mr. Hassan, a Hiteen camp resident in Amman, had pleaded not guilty to both charges.

According to court documents, Mr. Hassan was a member of the illegal party between May and October 1994, and "during this five-month period, he distributed 20 pamphlets in the name Hizb Al Tahrir."

"The pamphlets talked about the peace process with Israel and described the Arab leaders as traitors and called on the Arab Nation to say its word," court documents said, quoting the seized pamphlets.

Hizb Al Tahrir is an outlawed fundamentalist group that does not recognise any

existing Arab or Muslim regime. It calls for establishing a caliphate-style Islamic state.

One of its members, spokesperson Atta Abu Rishieh, was sentenced by the same court in February 1996 to a three-year imprisonment term after he was found guilty of slandering His Majesty King Hussein and for his affiliation with the illegal party.

Also Sunday, the State Security Court sentenced two men to prison terms with hard labour after being found guilty of distributing illegal drugs in May of this year.

The military tribunal sentenced Farid Ahmad, 26, to a seven and one-half year prison term with hard labour and was ordered to

pay JD500 in fines after being found in possession of Indian cannabis.

Mr. Ahmad originally received a 15-year prison term and was ordered to pay JD10,000, but the military court decided to reduce the punishment because "he is young and supports a family."

Salah Ahmad, 25, was sentenced to three years and nine months for complicity in distributing the "drugs."

Both men were arrested on May 13 while attempting to sell the cannabis to undercover agents in the Hasbani Al Shamali area.

Mr. Ahmad's verdict will be reviewed automatically by the Court of Cassation within 30 days.

Women leaders return from training course in Israel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Around 30 Jordanian women leaders concluded a three-week training course in Israel last week on "Women's Leadership and Social Contribution," according to Israeli embassy officials.

The event was a continuation of a previous training course that was organised by the International Division of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is affiliated with Histadrut (Israel Trade Union), according to Israeli Embassy Spokesperson Roey Gilad.

"This event which con-

cluded on Sept. 29, is part of the bilateral relationship between Jordan and Israel," Mr. Gilad told the Jordan Times Sunday.

The women leaders, who came from voluntary organisations in Jordan, were trained by Israeli women to take leadership positions for a larger social contribution, he

added.

He added that future training programmes will include Jordanian trainers as well.

Similar training courses were organised by the International Division in cooperation with the International Division for Palestinian and Egyptian citizens, Mr. Gilad said.

Tight race expected for minority candidates in upcoming elections

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minority seats in the next Parliament are expected to be hotly contested, with popular personalities competing against each other in many districts.

Judging from the election publicity campaigns that many of them have already launched in the local press, nearly 80 candidates will compete for the 12 seats allocated in Parliament to religious and ethnic minorities.

is expected to defend her Circassian/Cherchen seat from former ambassador Nayer Moulah.

Mr. Moulah, who resigned this week from his post as head of the Press and Publications Department in order to run in the elections, will also have to compete with another estimated five candidates, including Ahmad Shabso, who already tried his hand in the electoral race in 1989.

Also in Amman's Third District, the other minority seat, the Christian one, is expected to be fiercely contested among three candidates who may enjoy large support: Emily Naffa, a civil and women's rights senior activist, former deputy and Secretary General of the Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party Khalil Haddadin, and Farah Rabadi, the candidate of the National Constitutional Party (NCP), who was Ajloun Christian deputy in the previous Parliament.

procedures will have been completed.

Though Mr. Farah declined to name the aspiring Madaba Christian deputies, local press reports have mentioned as possible candidates Nashahat Hamameh, Shaffiq Zawadeh, Shouqi Karadsheb, Suheil Tawal, Nadeem Tawal, and Mousa Bajali. Local political commentators have indicated Mr. Zawadeh as the favourite.

As preliminary reports estimated that a total of more than 700 candidates will run for the 80 Lower House seats, the ratio of candidates per minority seat could be lower than the national ratio of candidates per Muslim seats, which could be more than ten to one.

According to the 1986 Elections Law, nine seats are allocated to Christians (one seat each in Amman Third District, Madaba, Irbid, Ajloun, and Zarqa, and two seats each in Karak and the Balqa Governorate), and three seats to Circassians/Cherchens (one seat each in Amman Third District, Amman Fifth District, and Zarqa).

Though these appear to be the favourites, due to their long-standing involvement in politics and social activities, Mr. Haddadin said he expected seven candidates to officially register in the race for his former seat.

In Amman's Fifth District, former Minister of Supply Munir Sobar will have to defend his Circassian/Cherchen seat not only from Leyla Faisal, sister of Toujan Faisal, but from his own family members, since two of his cousins, Khalil and Mouloud Sobar, have also decided to run for Parliament.

According to Arabic press reports on the situation in Zarqa, around ten candidates may compete for the Circassian/Cherchen seat in that district. Among them, those who have unequivocally announced their intention to run are: former deputy and Minister Abdul Baqi Gammou, Mohammad Taha Arslan, Nadmi Jafar, Kamel Ramadan, Abdul Jalil Abu Bakr, Ahmad Berfas, Mansour Sefeddin Murad, and Ahmad Mousa Adel.

In Madaba, outgoing Christian Deputy Samih Farah said he decided not to run "to give younger people from my same tribe and close to my political views a chance to be elected."

Addressing the two main issues of urbanisation and unemployment, Marwan Andraws, a "new face" in the 1997 elections, has started an aggressive campaign for Irbid's Christian seat.

Local political commentators expect that the 45-year old lawyer will pose a serious threat to the re-election of former deputy Nader Abu Sha'ar, who served as chairman of the Labour and Social Development Lower House Committee in the 12th Parliament.

Former Minister Samir Kassar, who has been elected Balqa Christian deputy twice, will also run again this year in the same district.

Though Mr. Sobar told the Jordan Times that he was very optimistic on his

chances of being re-elected, Ms. Faisal has already started an aggressive campaign, centred on fighting poverty, by introducing protectionist economic reforms, controlling the privatisation process, and repealing the recent government decision, to allow foreigners to own land in the Kingdom.

Bassam Haddadin, who was elected in 1993 under the ticket of the leftist Hashd, but will run this year with the social democrats of the Jordanian Unionist Democratic Party (JUDP), will have to defend his Zarqa, Christian seat against two doctors, both running independently: Tayseer Ammari and Maht Qousseur.

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It is still unclear who else will run for Mr. Kassar's former seat, but he said he expected other six competitors to join the race.

PLAY

- * Children's play "Shahrour and Traffic Rules" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m. (daily until Oct. 16).

LECTURE

- * "Interacting With Poetry" by Nicholas Linfield at the British Council, Jhal Amman at 5:00 p.m.

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

- * Graphics by Rafa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Dalloul of Syria, and Najia Mehad-

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ji at the South Hall.
- * Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qailoka at the Middle Hall.
- * Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.
- * Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.
- * Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Japanese pottery exhibition by Soei

Obiya at the Royal Cultural Centre until Oct. 9.

- * Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Murmurs of Our Land" by Rihan Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 65889677), until Oct. 30.
- * Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aura Mediterranea" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesdays).
- * Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Ms. Virginia Harris at the American Centre, Abdoun, until Oct. 20.

Milosevic faces possible rebuff in two elections

BELGRADE (AFP) — Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic was facing a double rebuff by voters Sunday as low turnout threatened a presidential vote in Serbia and an arch rival looked set to win a separate presidential ballot in Montenegro.

Sunday's voting was taking place in the two republics that make up the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Serbia and its tiny southern neighbour, Montenegro. Voter disillusion among Serbia's 10 million-strong population however is widespread and a boycott has been called for by 12 main opposition parties.

Early turnout for the second-round contest between Milosevic-ally and the favoured candidate, Zoran Lilic and extreme nationalist Vojislav Seselj, appeared low.

Unofficial estimates said that by 11:00 a.m. (0900 GMT), some four hours after voting started, only around 10 per cent of registered voters had turned up

to vote. The hoots close at 8.00 p.m.

The poor start to the day points to a turnout below 50 per cent which would invalidate the vote, forcing a fresh election some 60 days after Serbia's new parliament sits in the coming weeks.

Some observers even suggest that achieving a turnout of more than 50 per cent is impossible since both candidates must attract the votes of nearly a million more people than those who backed them in last week-end's first round. After casting his vote in a Belgrade residential area, Mr. Milosevic appealed to voters to "come out to the polls in large numbers and ... give support to Lilic, that is, to the politics of peace and development."

Mr. Seselj, a far-right supporter of a "Greater Serbia," also urged a high turnout Sunday saying that with the "victory of the radicals, there will be no possibility of Serbia kneeling before any Western power."

Among the opposition

parties boycotting the vote is the Democratic Party of Zoran Djindjic, who was ousted as mayor of Belgrade in controversial circumstances last week.

Mr. Djindjic, who urged voters to boycott last week's voting as well, said he wanted a new presidential election "which would take place in fair and honest conditions."

While doubts surround the success of the vote in Serbia, Mr. Milosevic faces a different problem in Montenegro where an independent-minded opponent is the favoured candidate among the republic's 460,000 registered voters.

Victory for Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic, 55, would be a slap in the face for Mr. Milosevic, whose close ally in the race, the 41-year-old President Momir Bulatovic, is the other main candidate.

Though both are members of the Montenegrin ruling Democratic Socialist Party (DPS), the former Communists, they head rival factions within the

party. Mr. Bulatovic heads the "conservative" wing, which gives unconditional support to Mr. Milosevic, while Mr. Djukanovic leads a "reformist" wing which recently split with the outgoing president.

Mr. Djukanovic is a strong critic of Mr. Milosevic who he has accused of dragging Montenegro into the mire alongside Serbia which laboured under international sanctions during the war in Bosnia and still struggles with a sick economy.

Victory for his two allies is crucial. To ensure the continuation of his 10-year-rule of the region, Mr. Milosevic has to strengthen the powers of the Yugoslav presidency, something that could be difficult if he does not get compliant presidents in Serbia and Montenegro.

Mr. Milosevic recently quit the presidency of Serbia after the maximum of two successive terms and secured his election as head of the Yugoslav Federation with support in the federal parliament.



Former Yugoslav President and presidential candidate Zoran Lilic (right) adjusts his watch after voting during the second round of Serbian presidential elections in Belgrade (Reuters photo)

Nepali ex-premier bids to form centrist government

KATHMANDU, (R) — Nepal's RPP party, which helped to topple its own splinter faction in a no-confidence motion, is set to head a centrist coalition to replace the outgoing Communist-dominated government, party officials said Sunday.

Ex-premier Surya Bahadur Thapa, president of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), was expected to make a formal bid to form the government in place of arch-rival Lokendra Bahadur Chand, also of the RPP, who was voted out Saturday.

"RPP will stake a claim to form the government with the support of the Nepali Congress," RPP General Secretary Prakash Chandra Lobani told Reuters.

Mr. Thapa led 14 of the RPP's 20 deputies in joining the centrist Nepali Congress Party to vote out Mr. Chand, who had himself only replaced a congress-led coalition in March.

Congress Party officials confirmed that an agreement had been reached with the RPP to help Mr. Thapa to form the new government, the Himalayan kingdom's fourth since a mid-term election in 1994 pro-

duced a hung parliament. Mr. Thapa is considered a liberal within the RPP.

Congress has 83 seats in the 205-member House of Representatives, the lower house of parliament.

The Nepal Sadhavana Party (NSP) with its three deputies, which quit Mr. Chand's government, and some independent members of parliament who helped to vote Mr. Chand out are also likely to join the new government as junior partners, Mr. Lobani said.

King Birendra has given parties until 6 p.m. (1215 GMT) Monday to stake a claim to parliamentary majority.

Officials said the new prime minister would be named soon after the deadline, and the government would be sworn in Tuesday. "It will be a (new) government to provide the people of Nepal security and new trust for dynamic development... and values of neutral bureaucracy," one RPP official said.

Mr. Thapa and Mr. Chand were both prime ministers during the partyless panchayat system which lasted from 1961 to 1990 in which the king enjoyed absolute powers. They formed the RPP

after the system was discarded by a popular movement jointly launched by congress and the Communists which established multi-party democracy in the world's only Hindu kingdom.

Mr. Chand led his RPP splinter group in March to topple the previous congress-led government with the support of the 89-seat Communist United Marxist-Leninist (UML) Party.

Nepal liberalised its economy in 1992 and has privatised 14 state-owned corporations as part of its economic reform drive.

But diplomats and businessmen say the frequent changes in government are hampering economic activities and may hit investor confidence.

"There is always a mini-storm here and the dust never settles," said Padma Jyoti, chairman of the Jyoti groups of industries and business companies.

One of the world's 10 poorest countries with per capita income barely totalling \$200, Nepal receives more than 60 per cent of the cost of its economic development from Western donors.

Australian premier unveils new-look ministry

CANBERRA (R) — Australian Prime Minister John Howard announced major changes to his ministerial team Sunday after a damaging parliamentary travel allowances scandal that forced three ministers from office.

The biggest loser in the reshuffle, designed to reinvigorate Mr. Howard's team 12 months out from the expected date of the next election, was Amanda Vanstone, who was replaced as employment and education minister by her former deputy David Kemp.

The employment portfolio is seen as one of the most critical cabinet posts in the lead-up to the next election, due at the latest by mid-1999 but widely expected late next year.

The jobless rate has fallen below 8.5 per cent only once since Mr. Howard's liberal-national coalition won power in March 1996 — despite five interest rate cuts — and opinion polls show unemployment is the voters' main concern.

Mrs. Vanstone had voiced frustration at her inability to reduce jobless queues, but Mr. Kemp told reporters he thought unemployment would come down as business confidence rises.

"These problems are not going to be solved overnight, but they can be solved," Mr. Kemp said. "This government has got its eye fixed very firmly on the ball and it's going to keep it there."

The government's other key economic posts, including that of treasurer Peter Costello, remained in the same hands.

Workplace relations Minister Peter Reith was given additional responsibilities for waterfront reform — the government is determined to break the unions' grip on the country's docks — formerly part of the transport portfolio.

National Party backbencher Mark Vaile was promoted to the cabinet post of transport minister, replacing John Sharp.

Mr. Sharp resigned on Sept. 24 after it emerged that he had secretly repaid almost Australian dollars 9,000 (\$6,500) in tax-free parliamentary travel expenses.

The administrative services portfolio, whose previous minister David Jull resigned for covering up Mr. Sharp's repayment, was abolished and some of its responsibilities were handed to Finance Minister John Fahey.

The third minister who resigned, millionaire Peter McGauran, saw his science and technology responsibilities handed to John Moore, minister for industry and science.

Mr. Moore hands his day-to-day responsibilities for Australia's lucrative tourism sector to Andrew Thomson, who becomes minister for tourism and sport — a key post in the run-up to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

Mr. Thomson, a 36-year-old who has spent only two years in parliament, was the most exotic new appointee. Son of five-times British open golf champion Peter Thomson, he is also fluent in Mandarin and Japanese.

Under his tourism brief, Mr. Thomson will be called on to counter perceptions in Asia that Australia is becoming a more racist country since the rise of populist Pauline Hanson.

Attorney-general David Williams was promoted into cabinet, while Mrs. Vanstone was handed the justice portfolio under Mr. Williams.

As Mr. Howard reshuffled his ministry, Labour finance spokesman Nick Sherry spent a third day in a Canberra hospital.

Mr. Sherry, the target of a government attack over his own large travel claims, attempted suicide in the early hours Friday by slashing his wrists.

Ironically, analysts say that Mr. Sherry's failed suicide attempt may persuade both sides of politics to drop a veil over future allegations of abusing parliamentary perks.



Pope John Paul II waves to Catholic pilgrims during a drive through the streets of Rio de Janeiro after celebrating mass (Reuters photo)

Pope calls abortion shame of humanity

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Pope John Paul II thundered against abortion Saturday, urging Roman Catholics to fight what he called an abominable crime and the shame of humanity.

The Pope, on the penultimate day of a trip to Brazil, used some of the strongest words he ever has against the practice in an address before more than 100,000 people at a rally for family rights at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

"May the abominable crime of abortion, shame of humanity, not condemn the unborn to the most unjust execution — that of the most innocent human beings," he said.

The Pope appeared to be holding up well since he arrived Thursday to preside over an international family rights gathering. "He is healthy and in good spirits," chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters.

At the Saturday night stadium event, the Pope conjured up the memory of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the nun known as "the saint of the gutters" who died last month after a life of service to the poorest.

Like the Pope, the Nobel Peace Prize winner was stridently anti-abortion and the Pontiff called on her frequently to attend church rallies against the practice. She had hoped to

attend the Rio rally. "How many times did we hear Mother Teresa's lips proclaim the priceless value of life from the moment of conception in the maternal womb ...," the Pope said.

"Death has silenced those lips but Mother Teresa's message in favour of life continues to be more vibrant and convincing than ever," he told the crowd after listening to couples speak of their problems and hopes.

A light show transformed the stadium, usually a temple to soccer, into a virtual cathedral as simulated stained glass windows appeared before the Pope as he delivered his attack on abortion.

Brazil is in the throes of a debate over whether abortion should be made more readily available. The powerful church in the world's largest Catholic country is opposed to a bill that would make it easier for women to obtain abortions in cases of rape or if their health is in danger.

The abortion debate has even involved the country's first lady, Ruth Cardoso, who was quoted by newspapers Thursday as saying the Pope should not seek to influence the debate.

The Pope also told the crowd that a society that neglected its young was "inhuman and irresponsible."

Abandoned children, known as "meninos de rua" (street children) are a major problem in big Brazilian cities, where they have sometimes become the target of right-wing death squads.

"Households that do not fully educate their children, who abandon them, commit a very grave injustice for which they will have to account before the tribunal of God," he said.

During the trip to Brazil, he has also condemned divorce and issued a veiled condemnation of homosexual marriages.

Earlier Saturday the Vatican firmly denied a German newspaper report that claimed it was talking to a German surgeon about carrying out an operation on the Pope.

"The cited doctor ... has never visited the holy father," spokesman Navarro-Valls said.

"The hypothesis that is being referred to — surgical operation to correct a functional insufficiency of the right hip — has never been taken into consideration," he added.

The Pope has walked with difficulty since 1994, when he underwent surgery to replace a thigh bone broken in a fall. There has been repeated speculation in recent years that he needed another operation because the first one was not a complete success.

N. Korea denies report of 1 million famine death

TOKYO (R) — North Korean official media has denied a report in a Hong Kong daily that more than a million people had died of hunger in the Stalinist state.

"No one doubts that the press speculation is a product of the (South Korean) 'agency for national security planning' to hurl mud at the northern half of Korea," Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Saturday night.

In a report last Tuesday, the South China Morning Post quoted North Korean refugees as saying that at least a million people have starved to death in the country.

The following day the paper cited a north Korean military officer as saying people were turning to cannibalism to survive the famine and that authorities in the reclusive state had executed people for selling human flesh.

"The recent false propaganda is designed to tarnish the image of the northern half of Korea," KCNA said, without mentioning the reports of cannibalism.

North Korea's famine was caused by severe floods in 1995 which destroyed arable land, fertiliser stores and irrigation systems.

According to Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency, North Korea's de facto head of state Kim Jong-Il last month acknowledged his country's food shortages.

In a report last Friday, TASS said an activist of Russia's Communist Party, Oleg Shenin, held talks with Mr. Kim on Sept. 2 during a three-week trip to North Korea.

Mr. Shenin told TASS that Mr. Kim had described North Korea's economic conditions as "complicated, especially the food situation, after two years of floods and this summer's drought."

IFP defector to reveal Zulu party's covert military activities — report

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — A senior defector from the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) will reveal to South Africa's truth commission details about the party's covert paramilitary acts, despite fears for his safety, a report said here.

Walter Felate, a former right-hand man in Mangosuthu Buthelezi's IFP, has been taken to a secret "safe house" by the IFP's chief rival, President Nelson Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC), Johannesburg's Sunday Independent said.

Mr. Felate was preparing a lengthy submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission about the IFP's paramilitary apparatus, including a "clear picture" of its role in the "evolution of the climate of violence," the newspaper said.

"I am aware of the need for the truth commission to have as rounded and as clear a picture as possible of the evolution of the climate of violence and I think I can play some role in providing ... this understanding," Mr. Felate said. The ANC had stepped up security around Mr. Felate — who defected to the ruling party in August — following a mysterious burglary at his home in the IFP's KwaZulu-Natal stronghold of Ulundi, the newspaper added.

The truth commission, which is probing crimes committed by all sides of the apartheid struggle from 1960 to 1994, has subpoenaed Mr. Felate to testify about two of the IFP's 1980s paramilitary training camps in northern KwaZulu-Natal.

Mr. Felate is believed to have left the Zulu nationalist party with more than seven tonnes of documents, some of which date back more than 20 years, the Sunday Independent said.

The defector confirmed he had left with a "large quantity" of papers — which Buthelezi has claimed were stolen — and deposited them at a university library in the KwaZulu-Natal port city of Durban, the newspaper said. The papers were now effectively in the custody of the truth commission, official Richard Lyster said, although Mr. Buthelezi has demanded their immediate return. Supporters of the IFP have waged an on-off undeclared civil war with the ANC since 1980, resulting in around 20,000 deaths on all sides of the conflict. For some years, the IFP received financial and logistical support from elements within the former apartheid regime, which upheld white-minority rule until 1994, according to press reports and testimony from ex-policemen and military men. Mr. Felate will testify to the truth commission behind closed doors, although he is expected to complete a manuscript — believed likely to cause some embarrassment to Mr. Buthelezi — for publication by next July, the newspaper said. The manuscript will record "the rise and fall of the IFP as a national political player," the Sunday Independent added. Mr. Buthelezi is leader of the IFP and Home Affairs Minister in Mandela's national unity government, which includes the IFP as a minor player. Besides revealing covert military activities, the documents are believed to contain the minutes of a 1979 meeting between Mr. Buthelezi and the ANC — when he was an ally of Mr. Mandela's party — which effectively saw the end of the relationship.

6 die in violence in S. Africa

PHETERMARTITZBURG, South Africa, (AFP) — A new wave of violence left six people dead overnight Saturday in volatile KwaZulu-Natal province, the military said Sunday.

South African National Defence Force spokesman Frans Schepers said four attacks late Saturday shattered a three-week fragile peace in the province's midlands region, following several days of political turmoil, the SAPA news agency reported. Five men were arrested after the military received a report around 9:00 p.m. (1900 GMT) Saturday and found the first dead body and several rounds of spent cartridges from Kalashnikov and R-4 automatic rifles, Mr. Schepers said.

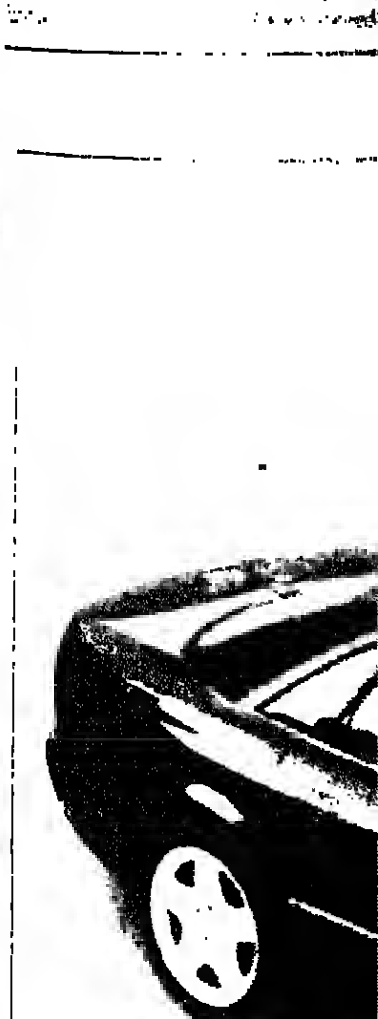
While police were still busy questioning them, more reports came in of attacks being fired. We went to investigate and found five more bodies in different areas in the Richmond area," he told SAPA.

Political violence, which resulted in dozens of deaths and injuries during the first months of 1997, abated in mid-September following the arrest of a former local African National Congress strongman Sifiso Nkabinde, on 18 murder charges.



Bang block

March
wounded
Airbus
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back boxes



One hour u

To experience the AX please call you

Search extended for Airbus' elusive black boxes

JAKARTA (AFP) — Search teams were combing a wider area Sunday around a crashed Garuda Indonesia Airbus in search of the missing data and voice recorders, vital to determining the cause of the tragedy, officials said.

The head of the Indonesian Team of Crash Investigators, Utoyo Diran, was quoted by the Bisnis Indonesia daily Sunday as saying that the black boxes had been destroyed in the crash was "very, very minimal."

However, Mr. Diran said that it was possible that the records contained by the boxes could be difficult to decipher.

"The latest report this morning said that the black boxes have not been found yet," Garuda Manager Sukoyo said from Medan, the western city near where a domestic flight from Jakarta plunged into a smog-shrouded ravine last month, killing all 234 people on board.

Mr. Sukoyo said that intensive efforts to locate the data and voice recorders, were continuing Sunday at the muddy valley 30 kilometres from Medan, but he could not give details.

"We are going through the bits and pieces of the wreck and are also combing a wider area around the crash site to see whether there are parts of the aeroplane to be found there," an officer at the North Sumatra search and rescue office said.

If found, the black boxes will be sent abroad for analysis as Indonesia does not have the facilities to do so.

The search efforts, led by Mr. Diran, involve hundreds of soldiers and policemen as well as air navigation experts, traffic control officials, communication experts and several experts from Airbus Industrie, the French-based jet manufacturer.



Women chanting anti-government slogans lead a street march in the Bangladesh capital Dhaka during a countrywide train and road blockade (Reuters photo)

Bangladesh opposition's call for blockade affects transportation

DHAKA (AFP) — Bangladesh was gripped Sunday morning by an opposition-led road and rail anti-government protest, causing transport chaos, residents and police said.

In the capital Dhaka, 5,000 policemen were deployed to maintain order during the eight-hour blockade called by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The protest shut major long-distance bus terminals in Dhaka and the southeastern port city of Chittagong.

In Dhaka's Mohakhali long distance bus terminal, pro and anti-blockade activists clashed and traded home-made bombs late in the morning, witnesses said, adding police fired teargas shells to break up the fighting.

Police detained at least seven people after the clash, they said.

In another terminal in eastern Saidabad suburb, police arrested several people after fighting broke out between rival activists, officials said.

In Chittagong, at least two persons were wounded by bullets after supporters and opponents of Sunday's blockade clashed on suburban Oxygen area causing brief panic, forcing police to use batons to break up clashing groups, a local police official told AFP.

The two suffered non-fatal bullet wounds and were sent to hospital, he said, adding the violence began after a group of anti-strike activists from the ruling party's labour front marched to the area and clashed with BNP supporters staging a pro-blockade rally.

Police patrolled the troubled area to prevent fresh violence.

In the port city, buses, trucks and most public vehicles stayed off the roads, but hundreds of tri-

cle rickshaws and small vehicles operated, residents said.

State-run Bangladesh Railway spokesman Jamil Chowdhury said in Dhaka train services were partly disrupted in the western and northern zones where protesters uprooted tracks, set fire to sleeper trains and put up barricades.

But the main Dhaka-Chittagong line was largely unaffected, Chowdhury said, adding police had been sent to clear the route's lone barricade near eastern Comilla town.

Sources at the railway here earlier said several trains which left stations in Dhaka and Chittagong were blocked by opposition activists.

There were no reports of any immediate violence during the protest, but newspapers said several crude bombs were detonated late Saturday in districts ahead of the blockade causing panic among residents.

The blockade is the fifth public protest led by the BNP of former Prime Minister Khalea Zia against the 16-month Awami League government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

The BNP said its protests were against the government's "repression on the opposition, its undemocratic and anti-people acts and subservient foreign policy." The demonstrations are backed by the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party and several smaller rightist groups.

Sheikh Hasina, speaking at a ruling party meeting here late Saturday, warned of tough action against the "opposition's negative politics of destruction, terrorism and anarchy," newspapers reported.

Awami League supporters organised several anti-strike marches in Dhaka Saturday alongside opposition campaigners drumming up backing for their blockade.

Afghan opposition claim recapture of key ground

KABUL (AFP) — The anti-Taliban forces Sunday recaptured some strategic ground to the east of the embattled northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, a spokesman claimed.

"We retook the Hairatan T-intersection," an important junction some 20 kilometres east of Mazar-i-Sharif, said opposition spokesman, Ustad Mohammad Muhaqeq, an official from the anti-Taliban Hezb-i-Wahdat faction.

Mr. Muhaqeq, contacted in Mazar-i-Sharif by satellite phone, claimed the religious militia had been pushed back from Hairatan junction, more than 40 kilometres to the east.

He said the Mazar-i-Sharif airport was also in the control of the alliance.

The Afghan Islamic Press, a private Pakistan-based information agency, reported late Saturday Taliban officials had admitted the capture of the airport by the opposition.

No comment from the Taliban officials here or an independent confirmation of the latest opposition claim was available.

On Saturday the anti-Taliban fighters broke the Taliban siege of their northern stronghold by cleaning the areas to the

south and west of the city. Independent sources had earlier said the road west to the town of Balkh, situated 18 kilometres to the

west was fully open to both civilian and military traffic.

Mazar-i-Sharif, situated 310 kilometres north of Kabul is the seat of Afghanistan's shadow anti-Taliban government, originally formed October last year in the wake of the Taliban take-over of the capital.

The Taliban had managed to reach the outskirts of Mazar-i-Sharif later last month after their local supporters attacked the alliance forces around the city.

Mr. Muhaqeq said the opposition fighters intended to cut off the retreat route for the Taliban soldiers in Tashqurghan city, 60 kilometres to the east of Mazar-i-Sharif.

"On Saturday, around 2,000 of our fighters entered Tashqurghan from Samangan province and have captured some high ground," he said.

The Taliban militia controls about two-thirds of Afghanistan, including the capital, Kabul, which was seized by them in September last year.

4 die as Talebans shell Tajik refugee camp

MOSCOW (AFP) — Four Tajik refugees were killed and 40 wounded when Taliban militia bombarded a refugee camp in northern Afghanistan, Russian border guards posted on the Tajik-Afghan border said Sunday.

The bombardment Saturday forced a group of refugees to seek sanctuary with Russian troops at the border post of Nijni-Tandi, 200 kilometres south of the Tajik capital Dushanbe. Thousands of Tajik refugees fled to Afghanistan during the 1992 civil war in Tajikistan.

According to the country's Commission for National Reconciliation — grouping representatives of the government and the armed Islamic opposition which signed a peace deal in June — around 8,000 Tajik refugees remain in Afghanistan, most of them at a major camp in Sakhrabad.

The U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said Friday that the situation in the camp, near Mazar-i-Sharif, was becoming "more and more desperate."

"Pakistan's Islamic opposition leader, Saif Abdullah Nuri, said the situation was worrying and called on the government to accelerate repatriation."

The June peace accord led to an initial wave of repatriation from neighbouring Afghanistan, but the pace of repatriation has been slow.

The refugee situation is made more precarious by the camp's proximity to Mazar-i-Sharif, 10 kilometres to the west, and the scene of frequent fighting. The town is the stronghold of Islamic militia opposing the Taliban regime in the Afghan capital, Kabul.

Indonesia 'doing its best to combat blazes'

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesia is doing its best to combat the forest and ground fires which have choked the region with thick smoke, President Suharto said Sunday, as officials claimed the worst was over.

"We have made whatever efforts we are capable of mobilising to overcome this natural disaster," Mr. Suharto said in an Armed Forces Day speech.

"Even though progress has been made, it is estimated that

putting down these fires will still take time."

In his speech, Mr. Suharto also apologised to neighbouring countries affected by the haze, his second international apology in less than a month.

The haze has spread over Malaysia, Singapore and parts of the Philippines and Thailand, causing serious health problems and traffic disruptions in the region.

"Indonesia once again expresses its deepest apologies," Mr. Suharto said.

New reports show the number of fire spots is on the decrease, said Mr. Sukardi, deputy head of the Environmental Impact Control Agency.

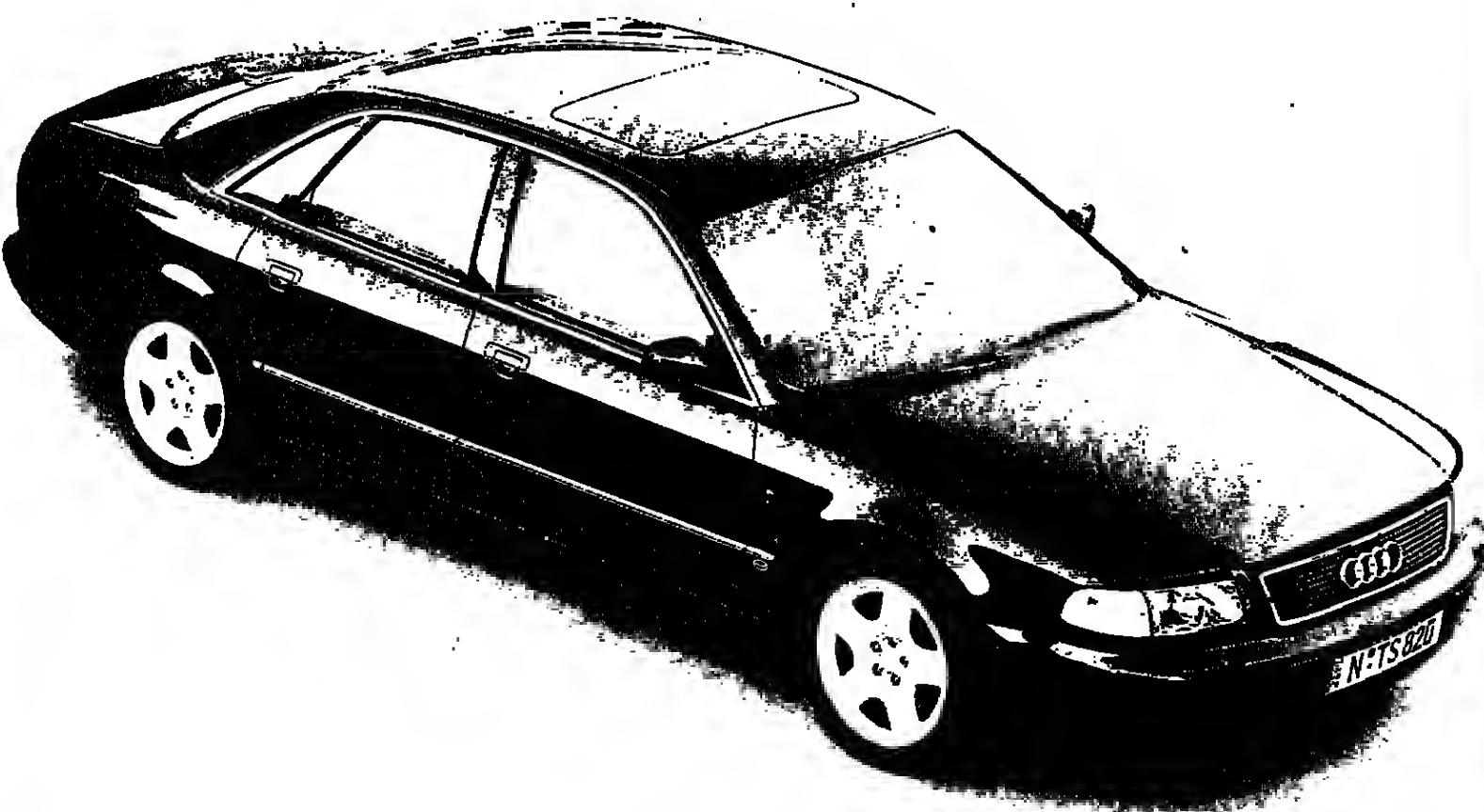
"This heartening news comes from various sides, such as data from the satellite imaging of the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), reports from the National Airspace Institute, the meteorology office and reports from the provinces," Mr. Sukardi was quoted by the official Antara news agency as

saying.

The latest data, covering Sept. 23 to early October, showed fires still burning in three provinces on Sumatra Island, two provinces in Java, three provinces in Borneo and one province in Sulawesi.

There were a total of 97 fire spots detected throughout the country, 36 in North Sumatra, where an aeroplane crashed in thick haze on Sept. 26 killing all 234 people on board.

No comparative figures were given.



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The culprit must pay price

IF WE have to interpret the initial response by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his advisors to the reckless attempt on the life of Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al as being indicative of the prime minister's way of thinking then even the combined efforts of Jordan, the Palestinians, the Europeans and the Americans will not save the peace process from total failure.

While Jordan is conducting itself in the best of diplomatic manners to avert any fallout of the affair, Mr. Netanyahu and his advisors are beating the drums of war and threatening that Israel's "long arm will reach" Hamas leaders wherever they are. The Israeli prime minister seems to be determined to achieve that goal even if it alienated Jordan, the Arab country that has the warmest relations with Israel, and Canada, a long-time friend of the Jewish state.

Of course, we understand that Mr. Netanyahu's advisors are gearing up for the domestic battle that their boss is about to engage in to defend himself as the prime suspect in the affair. And we also understand that Mr. Netanyahu has to confront an Israeli public that has yet to enjoy the security that their leader promised them when he took office last year. He also has to defend himself and his government against the Israeli left that blames him for the state of affairs that the peace process has reached.

But Mr. Netanyahu's battle is not only domestic. While he might want the Israeli people to believe that he was acting in the best of their interest, he cannot convince the Jordanians, the Palestinians or the Americans that by sending his Mossad agents to hunt opponents of peace in Arab capitals, he was serving the cause of peace that those parties strive to achieve. While he might still deceive a minority of Jews in Israel and in the U.S., he is already being exposed at what he really is: "Someone who does not understand what peace is," as the former Israeli ambassador to Jordan, Shimon Shamir, aptly put it.

While we respect and trust the will of the Israeli people to determine who leads them, we cannot but plead with them to punish the culprits who are determined to kill the vision of peace that the late Yitzhak Rabin had when he signed the declaration of principles with the Palestinians in Washington in 1993 and the peace treaty with Jordan in Wadi Araba in 1994.

By sending his agents to Amman to assassinate a Jordanian citizen, Mr. Netanyahu not only intends to reverse the peace-making process on the Palestinian track but also to undermine peace-building on the Jordanian front. For doing so, the Israeli prime minister must be held accountable and must be made to pay the right price.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Dustour's George Haddad criticised the government for delaying the announcement of the results of investigations into the attack on Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al saying the public has the right to know all the facts. Any observer must be surprised at government statements saying the assault weapon had not been found and claiming there was no evidence yet that the two suspects were involved in the assassination attempt on Misha'al. While Canadians have raised a hue and cry over the incident because the suspects carried forged Canadian passports, and while Israeli political parties and other groups are demanding that their government account for its actions, Jordan, where the attack was perpetrated, is keeping silent about the whole affair except to say that the investigations are continuing, said Haddad. He pointed out that until this hour no comprehensive and detailed statement about this terrorist attack has been issued except the information minister's claim that it was a mere quarrel between tourists and Misha'al's men. Definitely, the writer said, there is nothing in the Wadi Araba peace treaty that stipulates that either party should condone the criminal actions of the other.

Al Rai's Mahmoud Rimawi said the Israeli-perpetrated assassination attempt on the life of Khaled Misha'al, the Hamas leader in Amman, provides evidence that the Jewish state's tactics have not changed but follow the same pattern in espionage, in acts of terrorism and in dealings with other nations. Rimawi said Israel seems to have based its policy on undermining other countries' security and stability as a sure means of guaranteeing its own. With their attempt on the life of Misha'al in Amman, the Israeli agents used forged Canadian passports and so gave Canada a taste of their behaviour towards other countries, the writer said. He said Israel had recruited Jonathan Pollard, an American, to spy for them in the United States, the strategic ally of the Jewish state, and recruited Azzam, an Arab-Israeli, to spy on Egypt, a country with which Israel has concluded a peace treaty. Rimawi said that instead of apologising to Egypt the Israeli leaders have been demanding that Azzam be released, adding that they could not follow a similar policy with the U.S. where Pollard is serving a prison term. He said Israel's dealings with different countries follow tactics that are continually exposing its evil nature to the world.

Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

Small is not beautiful

AMONG THE slogans that have made their way into the Jordanian economic psyche recently is the claim that Jordan should stress the development of small and medium enterprises to the exclusion of all other options. This should not be a first-best development strategy for Jordan.

At an economic cooperation and development conference in Greece, which I attended last week, many of the speakers, from the countries of the Mediterranean and the Balkans, put forth the idea that small business creation is the way forward. Unfortunately, many people profess the same message in Jordan also. But one should not listen to those seers of what may be the annihilation of whatever industrial base may exist in the developing world. On the contrary, for long-term productivity enhancement resources should go to high-tech, knowledge-intensive production. Frankly, let the small be damned, Jordan needs big private competitive business.

Why are small enterprises so important? According to some logic, small businesses tend to be labour intensive; i.e., the ratio of the labour to capital inputs is higher in such enterprises than it is in the large firms. Therefore, countries with labour problems should encourage the creation of small businesses which tend to employ larger numbers of people and therefore, resolve the unemployment problem. Some would even argue that the government should subsidise the creation of small businesses. This solution

should be only considered as a short-run relief option and not a long-term strategy; small enterprises are not the panacea for all economic ills.

Additionally, such a logic tends to camouflage several pertinent points that should be considered. First, large enterprises with knowledge-intensive production tend to be labour-intensive, even though they hire less physical labour if one is to consider the value of intelligent labour (human capital). In other words, the labour of smart people is worth more than that of the unskilled, or unsophisticated labour. Thence, large companies that hire few highly skilled labour may be considered as labour-intensive, while small companies that hire large numbers of unskilled labour may be capital-intensive since the value of the labour input is so low due to low quality.

Which type of labour should be focused on? For the long-run skilled labour is the best option. For unemployment relief in the short run, small enterprise hiring will do.

Second, small businesses, which tend to employ simple technology and production methods, do not provide the economy with a positive externality — indirect benefits to others who may learn from new techniques and processes. They add little to the knowledge of the population and do not encourage the dissemination of information.

Third, small scale production tends to have a variegated quality which prohibits advanced usage of the product especially if the product

is an input to be used in the production of other goods and services. For example, China in the days of Mao Tse-tung, who stressed economic self-reliance through labour-intensive rather than technological advanced cooperative agriculture, attempted to create a steel home-industry. The idea was simple: people would make small amounts of steel in their backyards by using small, sometimes homemade furnaces. Backyards had furnaces, and China was to be rid of dependence on the foreign devil. A novel idea? Maybe. But the result was disastrous because no one could ever measure, standardise, or sustain the quality of the final product, hence no one could use it in production.

Fourth, small production offers no scale economies — savings in the average cost of the unit that arise from large scale production: a large firm that produces a hundred units of something would produce these units at a lower average cost than would a 100 small firms producing one unit each. Therefore, efficiency losses to the nation would ensue.

In other words, one must always remember that a small or medium business scheme is aimed at short run relief to the poor and not long run national prosperity. One must always discriminate between first and second best solutions. Ideally, Jordan would be much better off with large firms that produce knowledge goods and services but until then the small and medium will do.

'Global languages' pose no real threat to the world's small languages

By Wynne Dyer

IN A time when English has become the first and only 'global language,' used regularly by Koreans to communicate with Danes and by Turks to talk to Peruvians (both in the flesh and on the Net), it is reassuring to learn that it is not pushing other languages to the wall. On the contrary, concludes David Dalby of the Observatoire Linguistique, the world contains over 10,000 living languages, 50 per cent more than previously estimated.

The smallest of those languages have only one or two living speakers, and will die with them: Bikya, for example, is now spoken only by one 87-year-old woman living near Furuawa on the Cameroon-Nigerian border. But most languages have enough speakers to carry on forever, and the dominance of English is no threat at all.

This conclusion runs contrary to almost everything that has been said about the subject for decades. As long ago as 1985, 'Development Forum,' published by the United Nations University, coined the phrase 'language death' — and suggested that endangered languages needed active conservation policies in the same way

as Welsh, and the institute he directs, despite its French name, is in Wales. Welsh was the very first language to come under pressure from English, but half a millennium after the English conquest of Wales, fully one-third of the population can speak Welsh. Almost all Welsh-speakers are bilingual in English, however — and that, Dalby reckons, is the dominant pattern for the future.

Until now, amazingly, nobody had done a full compilation of the world's languages and dialects. The international network of scholars who collaborated in the effort to produce a 1,600-page register of all the world's languages never suspected that so many languages existed, because each expert only knew his own region. So where do all these languages come from? They come from a past before civilisation, when language diversity was so extreme that every little group of a few hundred human beings had its own language (as the people of the Papua New Guinea highlands still do).

There may have been only ten million people on the planet then, but they would have spoken at least 20,000 different languages. And

English, Hindi, Spanish, Russian, Bengali, Arabic, and Portuguese.

The hundred biggest languages account for 95 per cent of the world's people, and in some of the longest civilised places — the Middle East, Europe, East Asia — the surviving minority languages are counted only in the dozens. But in most places many more 'little languages' have survived: the United States and Brazil are home to hundreds, India and Indonesia to over a thousand each.

Moreover, new technologies have lowered the cost of providing books, radio and even television service to the point where languages with only 20,000 speakers can become perfectly viable mediums of communication for modern living, especially if they are geographically isolated.

A good example is Inuktitut, spoken by Canada's Inuit (Eskimo) people. The small Inuit communities scattered across the vast expanse of the eastern Arctic are all being given satellite uplinks and Internet connections, enabling them to talk to each other in Inuktitut, to access the few thousand books that have been written in Inuktitut or translated into it, and (if they are bilingual) to use all the rest of the world's information resources as well.

But that's the rub: "if they are bilingual." And 'bilingual' actually means bilingual in English, since 80 per cent of what's on the Net is in English. And isn't becoming bilingual in English the first step down the road to 'language death'?

The French certainly think so, and launch periodic linguistic pogroms to purge their language of English loan-words. But such paranoia is not justified by the evidence: bilingualism or multilingualism was once the natural state of human beings, and doesn't necessarily cause language loss at all.

The 300 million people who speak the world's 9,900 'little languages' do not need to worry. Most of them are already bilingual in one of the bigger languages, because it helps when travelling and gives them access to broader sources of information. But their own languages are not in decline. On the contrary,

desktop publishing, low-cost newspaper publishing, and cheap broadcasting are

The hundred biggest languages account for 95 per cent of the world's people, and in some of the longest civilised places — the Middle East, Europe, East Asia — the surviving minority languages are counted only in the dozens.

dramatically expanding the possibilities for living in languages like Basque, Assyrian and Inuktitut.

What's true of the little languages is also true of the big ones facing the apparent juggernaut of global English. The emergence of English as the first global lingua franca is a remarkable phenomenon, but it doesn't really threaten anybody else.

The native speakers of English number around 450 million: more than any other language except Chinese but less than 7 per cent of the world's population. Count those who have learned English as a second language, however, and the total soars to 1.3-1.5 billion, far surpassing any potential rival.

A global lingua franca is needed in this time when everything else is starting to work on a global scale, and English just happened to be the leading candidate (for transient reasons of American economic and military dominance) at the right time. Timing is all, and it may now retain this role for centuries.

But there is not a shred of evidence to show that English threatens the position of other languages in their own home markets,

Human Rights File

Right to know

By Waleed M. Sadi

WITHOUT FAULTING any particular minister or official, it appears that our authorities have wittingly or unwittingly stumbled on several occasions in handling the case of the attack on Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al last week. It is one thing to determine that the investigation of the serious and sensitive Misha'al case must be conducted in complete secrecy in order to arrive at definitive conclusions, but to have acted in the pursuit of this goal in an unprofessional manner is inexcusable.

There are four different factors related to the Misha'al file. First and foremost is the internal dimension and how Jordanians may perceive and react to the attack on the Hamas leader. Jordanians are no novices when it comes to news reports. Armed with a wealth of information from international and regional sources, they must be dealt with as a sophisticated audience who are able to sift through data and information. This is not to mention the fact that like other Middle Eastern societies, Jordanians are prone to believe in conspiracies even on the basis of rumours and allegations. Every effort therefore must have been exerted to avoid fuelling the conspiracy theory by handling relevant information in a more professional manner.

This was not the case with regard to the Misha'al case. By downgrading the assassination attempt to insignificant proportions right at the very outset, the rumour mill was needlessly fuelled. For example, one day officials reported that the mysterious weapon deployed against Misha'al was discovered, then on another day they reported that it suddenly disappeared. Descriptions of the nature of the attack changed so many times that at the end one had the distinct impression that someone is needlessly doctoring or manipulating the information.

Wouldn't it have been infinitely more professional to simply have told the people and the entire world for that matter that an attempt was indeed made on the life of Misha'al by two or more persons whose identity is being determined and that the assailants utilised a sophisticated weapon of sorts. Jordanians would be the first to appreciate the need for top secrecy in the conduct of the investigation since the ramifications and implications of foreign agents operating in our midst is something that requires maximum confidentiality to ensure acceptable results. But now that it is out in the open that Israeli Mossad agents carried out the attempted assassination, our authorities must be gradually more forthcoming as events unfold. The preliminary investigations must have concluded from the onset that Israeli agents were indeed behind the attack. This kind of information should have been made public as soon as possible. It is not in our national interest to have Canada or even Israel break the news and confirm the Israeli connection before we recognise it ourselves in public.

Israel has been caught red-handed operating in our country in a manner that suggests that it has been exploiting the peace treaty between the two countries. By having its agents roam about the country in a manner that is most hostile to the Jordanian national interests, Israel has in effect undermined the warm peace that Jordan has accepted to cultivate. The Jordanian government would be hard pressed now to pursue warm peace with Israel in the aftermath of the attempt on the life of a Jordanian national by Israeli agents. The Jordanian milieu has been effectively poisoned by the incident and rendered more hostile to any bid to warm up to Israel for fear that moves towards more familiarity may lead to additional relaxation in Jordanian vigilance. Peace-building has suffered an obvious setback with the perpetration of this Israeli-orchestrated act on Jordanian land.

The third element is the Canadian connection. Ottawa has every reason to be perturbed at the use of forged Canadian passports by any nation to conduct espionage activities and assassinations. If states exploit the Canadian nationality so blatantly and arrogantly, this would lead to widespread suspicion of every Canadian including those holding valid Canadian passports. The Canadian image has not only been compromised by Israel's deliberate use of forged Canadian passports but has also been irreparably damaged as well especially if it turns out that forgery of Canadian passports is a widespread practice of Israel and other countries. Imagine for a moment that every Canadian abroad has been rendered a suspect because Israel made use of Canadian nationality as a tool to conduct regional and international espionage.

The fourth dimension is international in nature. The world has every right to rely on Jordan for the most accurate and up-to-date information about the activities of foreign agents against the lives of people in the country. Having conducted ourselves in less than a professional manner, we have effectively lost the initiative to other sources of information to act as they saw appropriate. Instead of maintaining a grip on the flow of information on the incident, we slowly but surely gave way to other nations and news agencies as the most reliable sources of information. In effect we have therefore fumbled and fumbled badly in the process. This would not have happened had we aimed to maintain a greater degree of professionalism in the dissemination of vital data on what transpired.

LETTERS

Another Israeli game

To the Editor:

THE ATTEMPTED assassination of a Jordanian citizen on the streets of Amman, by Israeli agents demonstrates Israel's insensitivity to Jordan and to the peace treaty signed between both countries. It shows an alarming lack of understanding of basic rules of this part of the world.

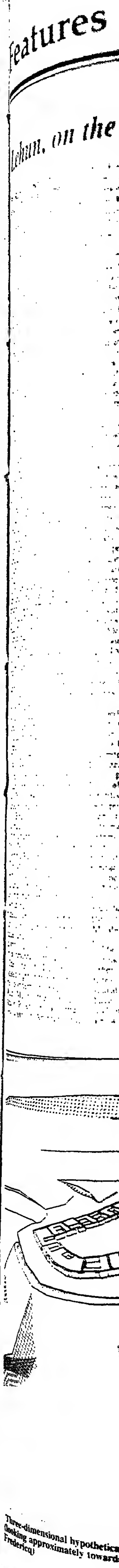
For how long will this go on then? And how many games will Israel play before it is not too late?

When Jordan embarked on its full-fledged peace strategy with Israel, people were geared to reap the dividends, not receive slaps! If these sort of "games" go on unchecked, to undermine that strategy, everyone on-board including the historical Netanyahu-led government should take notice!

Like a tango or even a real war, a sustainable peace also takes two, or more!

Salim Ayoub
P. O. Box 815357
Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.



British delegation discusses transport, water projects with Saket and Haddadin

By Abdul Salam Gharaibeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Transport and Telecommunications Minister Bassam Saket met Sunday with visiting British Minister of Construction Nick Raynsford and said afterwards that they discussed railway projects and public transport issues in addition to the projected Aqaba Airport and investments in Aqaba Port.

The two sides reviewed areas where the British and Jordanian private sectors can join hands in promoting transport sectors in the Kingdom.

Expressing Jordan's appreciation of Britain's past technical assistance to Jordan, the minister said: "We hope to move from the stage of technical assistance to a stage where the two sides can establish a partnership in implementing major investment projects that would bolster the

Kingdom's economy."

During the meeting, Dr. Saket noted, the British minister and his accompanying delegation studied the railway projects in Jordan and other transport schemes to which Britain has been providing technical assistance.

According to the minister, Jordan expects investments amounting to JD500 million in projects to be implemented in the coming two years. He pointed out that the projected railways in the country will alone cost nearly JD 264 million.

Referring to railway schemes under construction, Dr. Saket said the country is building the Shidiyah (phosphate mines)-Aqaba railway and noted that the scheme is part of the country's overall plans to promote the exports of phosphates and potash among other minerals.

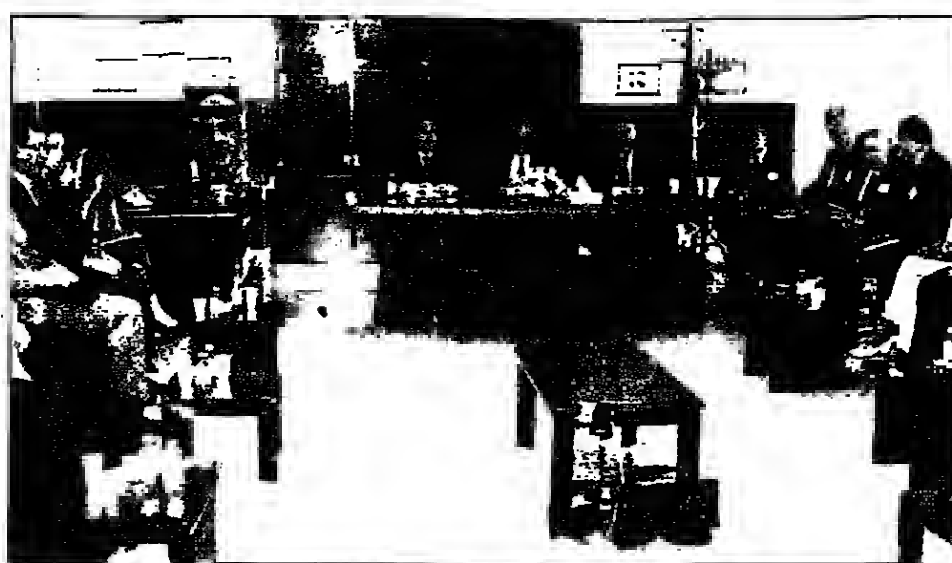
The British minister and his delegation also met with Water and Irrigation Minis-

ter Munther Haddadin and discussed water projects. He said later that his visit aims at securing a first hand examination of projects which Jordan seeks to execute.

He said that the projects he had studied during his visits to the ministries of water and irrigation and transport were interesting to Britain and the British businessmen.

He expressed hope that Britain will have a good share of these projects saying that the visit to Jordan was important and could soon result in establishing strong economic relations and lead to the implementation of joint investment schemes.

Mr. Raynsford underlined the importance of peace in the Middle East region and the removal of obstacles that obstruct sustainable development and economic progress.



The British delegation meeting with Transport and Telecommunication Minister Bassam Saket and transport officials (above), and Minister Haddadin and water officials (below)



Analysts expect South East Asian currencies to remain under pressure

SINGAPORE (AFP) — South East Asian economies embroiled in foreign exchange turmoil have taken the bitter pill by tightening monetary policy to mitigate the rapid erosion of their currencies, analysts say.

The Malaysian ringgit, the Indonesian rupiah and the Philippine peso

plunged to record lows while the Singapore dollar hit a 39-month low against the robust U.S. dollar last week and analysts expect them to remain under pressure.

"There is this existing climate of worries about currency direction and it will probably take a strong regional approach to arrest

the worries," said Andy Tan, general manager of U.S. research house Standard and Poor's MMS in Singapore.

Central banks in Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia used sharply higher interest rates to defend their currencies when the region was hit by currency crisis following the Thai baht's effective devaluation on July 2.

High interest rates can support currencies by attracting more investors to buy and hold them but can also choke highly-indebted companies, as well as their creditor banks, facing ballooning borrowing costs.

As corporate finances suffered the effects of expensive loans stemming from the higher rates, most of the economies tried to ease the rates but found their currencies coming under pressure again.

"I think that there is no option other than to maintain a tight monetary stance," said P. K. Basu, director of regional macroeconomic research at Union Bank of Switzerland in Singapore.

That lesson was made abundantly clear to Indonesia in the past month when

the central bank cut its key Serifikat Bank Indonesia interest rates from 30 per cent to 19 per cent — only to see an immediate plunge in the rupiah.

"Similarly, a loose monetary stance in Malaysia caused the ringgit to plunge as well," Mr. Basu said, adding that Kuala Lumpur's modest tightening in policy last week helped stabilise the bruised currency.

Malaysia's daily-weighted average three-month interbank rate or Klibor — the fee that banks charge on loans to one another — rose to 8.23 per cent Friday compared to 7.76 per cent a week earlier and 7.58 per cent in the beginning of September.

The Klibor is a benchmark for other lending rates, and commercial banks use it to calculate the base lending rate (BLR) which they charge their best customers.

While Klibor rates gradually rose, Malaysia's central bank Negara has effectively asked commercial banks to keep their BLR under 9.6 per cent in a bid to prevent higher money market rates from being passed on to customers.

Despite this, Jimmy Koh,

regional economist with London-based financial house I.D.E.A. said the BLR would hit 10 per cent soon.

In the Philippines, interbank overnight borrowing rates rose to a high of 90 per cent Friday with rates averaging 55.25 per cent as the central bank soaked up excess cash, banking sources in Manila said.

This was a sharp increase over the high of 70 per cent and the average of 35.28 per cent Thursday, a day after the peso dove to a new record low.

Analysts say South East Asian economies are caught between hiking rates to cushion their currencies' fall and keeping rates at reasonable levels to help their debt-ridden local corporations.

"In Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, the central banks have very few options as they are caught between the rock of a higher interest rate and the hard pace of a weak currency — both amount to the same thing because domestic corporates and banks have huge amounts of external debt," Mr. Basu said.

In the case of Malaysia, external indebtedness is much lower and so the Malaysian choice is a little clearer — a weak currency is preferable to higher domestic interest rates, he added.

As government attempted to cushion their currencies from the hammering they receive from the markets, analysts see no immediate signs of the regional currency turmoil easing.

The Indonesian currency has dropped by nearly 50 per cent against the U.S. dollar, the baht by 44 per cent, the ringgit by 33.2 per cent, the Philippine peso by 32.23 per cent and the Singapore dollar by nearly eight per cent.

Vincent Low, fixed income strategist at Merrill Lynch here, said faltering confidence and worsening economic problems in Thailand — the original pressure point of the regional crisis — shows "contagion effects are still prevalent."

Mr. Low said some of the targets under the International Monetary Fund's \$17.2 billion rescue package for Thailand required renegotiations, especially on the fiscal front where the economic slowdown would cause a shortfall in tax revenue.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES:

(March 21 to April 19) Take your partner out to an exotic restaurant this evening for dinner. After that, go see a funny movie; if you've got a comedy club in the area, go there instead. Comedians will be in absolutely magnificent form tonight. That's you, too! After that, arrange a new commitment.

TAURUS:

(April 20 to May 20) You're very busy, but there's also potentially lots of money coming in. That's the good news. The bad news is that you're being scrutinized. You're just being tested to see if you can handle more responsibility. Don't forget to access that secret weapon of yours.

GEMINI:

(May 21 to June 21) You and your partner get to fall in love again. Or a friendly relationship could grow more significant. And if you don't have even a hint of a relationship, be watching for one. The perfect person could stumble into your life. He or she won't fit your preconceptions.

MOON CHILDREN:

(June 22 to July 21) You've got housework and you've got your job. To make matters worse, you feel like you ought to be doing both at the same time. Well, that's not going to happen. Set priorities. If you're not careful, you'll mess up a big assignment. That would not be a good idea.

LEO:

(July 22 to August 21) You will have a grand Trine in fire signs going on in the background for the next several months. If you've been waiting for the right time to do something, get started. Don't wait until tomorrow on this assignment. Although you'll be lucky for a long time, you're even luckier right now.

VIRGO:

(August 22 to September 22) Focus on money and your home, not necessarily in that order. Just keep stashing your cash. Pretty soon you'll have plenty. Maybe you'll even be able to buy all that stuff you want. You might even be able to pay cash for the whole house. That would save you a fortune.

LIBRA:

(September 23 to October 22) You're soaking up new information with hardly any effort. You can't help it. That's because everything is so interesting! It's also a good day to dump a bad habit. Your chances of success are very high. Just choose a different way of being. Have faith, and make it happen.

SCORPIO:

(October 23 to November 21) Is there a loan you have to pay off? Some other sort of obligation? How about an insurance claim? Medical bills? Whatever, the situation is troublesome, you may have had difficulty sleeping. Communication is your answer. Call the people involved and discuss the matter.

SAGITTARIUS:

(November 22 to December 21) If you don't have enough parties and meetings scheduled already, get on the phone first thing this morning. People are in the mood to negotiate. They want to take on big projects. Have a wonderful time and make a valuable contribution.

CAPRICORN:

(December 22 to January 20) It looks like the boss has something important for you to handle. Unfortunately, you're not sure how to go about it. The deadline looms near. Instead of running away from the job, turn and face it. The answer will become obvious and the problem will be solved.

AQUARIUS:

(January 21 to February 19) You're getting all sorts of interesting offers. Accept as many as you can. Travel should go very well this evening. It might be difficult to get very far on a Monday night, but you can certainly give it a try. You and your very dearest friends should go about as far as you can.

PISCES:

(February 20 to March 20) Just let the person with the money know exactly what you need, what it's going to cost and when you will repay the loan. You don't have to do the whole thing now. Start laying the groundwork and ask for the money later. Tomorrow and the next day are both good for that.

Apple selects TBWA for Europe

Apple Computer Europe has selected TBWA International to handle its European advertising account. This decision comes one month after TBWA Chiat/Day, the North American operation of TBWA International, was picked to work on Apple's advertising in the U.S., Canada and Latin America.

"Once we saw the advertising developed by TBWA Chiat/Day, it became evident that this had the potential to be the European campaign," said Christofer Recker, Marcom Manager for Apple Europe. "TBWA International has proven its ability to successfully implement highly creative global advertising for clients such as Absolut, Nivea, Nissan and others. The advantages of using a single advertising agency are obvious and to proceed with the review became less important than our ability to strike quickly."

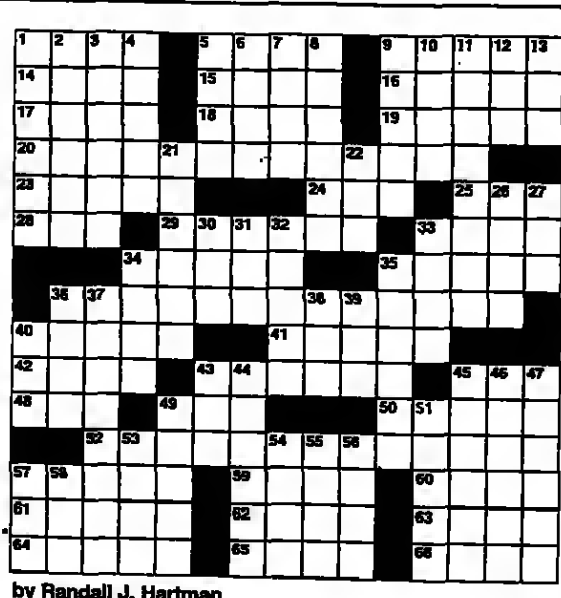
TBWA manages multinational accounts from various European centres. For example, Absolut in Paris, Nivea in Hamburg, Nissan in Amsterdam and Samsonite in Amsterdam. Bela Stamenkovits, Creative Director of TBWA/The Campaign Company in Amsterdam, will be the European creative director.

Apple Computer, Inc. ignited the personal computer revolution in the 1970s with the Apple II, and reinvented the personal computer in the 1980s with the Macintosh. Apple is now recommitted to its original mission — to bring the best personal computing products and support to students, educators, designers, scientists, engineers, businesspersons and consumers in over 140 countries around the world.

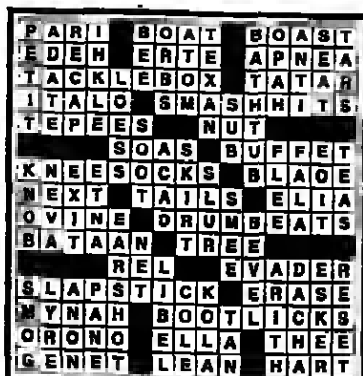
THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Egyptian goddess
- 5 Arrive
- 9 Michael Caine film
- 14 "The Gift of the"
- 15 Author Haley
- 16 Peter of old times
- 17 Sad
- 18 One of the Baldwins
- 19 Cager Shaquille
- 20 Start of a quote by Albert Einstein
- 23 Dice
- 24 Understand
- 25 Fiery
- 26 Spanish queen
- 29 Dan of TV news
- 33 Bullets
- 34 Short appearance
- 35 Killed
- 36 More of quote
- 40 "Solero"



by Randall J. Hartman



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DOWN

- 1 Tiptoe
- 2 Upstream swimmer
- 3 Tropical lizard
- 4 Blockade
- 5 "The Godfather" star

- 6 Spicy stew
- 7 Hold a session
- 8 Kind of tax
- 9 "Home"
- 10 Burf's ex
- 11 Certain student
- 12 A Gershwin
- 13 Conger
- 21 Land of the Wailing Wall
- 22 "the ramparts..."
- 26 Leave off
- 27 Coal measure
- 30 Pierre's pal
- 31 Pro
- 32 Increase the horsepower
- 33 "poor Yorick"
- 34 Ship's hands
- 35 Walk leisurely
- 37 Extra period, e.g.
- 38 Sugary suffix
- 39 Sis. or bro.
- 40 Criticize
- 43 Metal

- 44 Cruel
- 45 Hat
- 46 Bickers
- 47 Certain fly
- 48 Thomas or
- 49 Key
- 51 Spectral
- 53 Pay attention
- 54 Film
- 55 Fairy tale beginning
- 56 Dandelion, e.g.
- 57 Reverence
- 58 Below average

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"The last time I wrote 'I love you' in a foggy mirror, you scolded me for getting fingerprints on the glass!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: ON

Yesterday's Jumbles: HOARD GLAND WISELY LAUNT
Answer: Once she got the hang of it, sking became — ALL DOWNHILL.

Business

Ministry extends period given to raise capital

REUTERS

The Business

Commodity	Unit	Price	Change
Crude Oil	Barrel	28.45	0.10
Gold	100g	385.00	0.00
Silver	100g	16.50	0.00
Natural Gas	1000 cu ft	0.45	0.01
Heating Oil	100 gal	1.25	0.02
Gasoline	100 gal	1.15	0.01
Wheat	Bushel	2.10	0.01
Corn	Bushel	1.45	0.01
Soybeans	Bushel	3.20	0.02
Canola	Bushel	2.80	0.01
Alfalfa	Ton	120.00	0.00
Hay	Ton	150.00	0.00

Job Openings

City	Openings
New York	12,000
Los Angeles	10,000
Chicago	8,000
San Francisco	6,000
London	5,000
Paris	4,000
Tokyo	3,000
Hong Kong	2,000
Singapore	1,000

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Abdoun Real Estate

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Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Ministry extends for six months the period given to insurance companies to raise capital to minimum JD2m

THE GOVERNMENT has decided to extend for six months the period given to insurance companies to adjust and raise the capital to JD2 million. Speaking to Al Aswaq, Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hani Mulki said the extension period will be the last. He requested the insurance companies to raise the capital or merge and to utilise this opportunity which comes in a positive economic climate currently prevailing in the country.

According to amendments passed in 1995, the minimum capital of a Jordanian insurance company practising direct insurance was raised to JD2 million. The minimum for a branch of a foreign company was set at JD4 million and for a Jordanian reinsurance company, the minimum was set at JD20 million. The insurance companies were asked to comply by the end of September to avoid being forced to merge or forced out of the market.

The changes in the law covering insurance operations opened the door for new companies to enter the market which was restricted to 17 local companies and one foreign company that specialised in life insurance.

The Jordanian Insurance Federation has asked for an extension to the period given for the insurance companies to raise their capital. In its memorandum, the federation listed the current economic conditions, the liquidity shortage and the high

cost of borrowing as reasons for asking for an extension. The federation also mentioned the decline in share prices and the fall in insurance premiums as other reasons.

Raising the capital is seen as a step to consolidate the government drive to achieve mergers between insurance companies. However, the decision to extend the period with provide the companies with an opportunity to study the developments and the shareholders more time to adjust the status of their companies especially when the return in the form of bank interest is higher for investors than expected returns from investing in insurance companies. There are 12 companies which have capital less than JD2 million.

Dr. Mulki revealed that the ministry is about to conduct a detailed study for third party insurance premiums in the country to determine whether the people really benefit of such insurance and whether insurance companies really meet their obligations to the people.

The ministry will revise all the matters related to the insurance sector taking into consideration the interests of both the companies and the people, the minister stressed noting that measures will be finalised during the coming two weeks to develop the work of the insurance supervision directorate at the ministry to upgrade the services it provides for the public (Al Aswaq).

U.S. aims to tighten control over imported fruits, vegetables

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States plans to tighten dramatically its health controls over imported vegetables and fruits. President Bill Clinton has said.

"At a time when Americans are eating more and more food from around the globe, we must spare no effort to ensure the safety of our food supply from whatever source," Mr. Clinton said at the White House.

The initiative was aimed mainly at boosting the authority of the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) over such imported

goods. Mr. Clinton said the White House would send a bill to Congress "to give the Food and Drug Administration the power and the obligation to ban the importations of fruits, vegetables and other foods from countries whose safety precautions do not meet American standards."

The president also said his next budget would include enough funding to "ensure that the FDA can fully implement this new legislation by dramatically expanding its international food inspection force."

The goal is to give the FDA authority similar to the Agriculture Department's powers over poultry and beef.

He said he had also issued a directive to the Health and Human Services Department and the Agriculture Department to draw up a "comprehensive plan to improve the monitoring of food safety programmes abroad, to help foreign countries upgrade their safety precautions and to toughen food inspections at the border."

He said he had asked the secretaries of both departments to identify "those areas, where problems are most likely to occur."

He said he had also issued a directive calling for "the first ever specific safety standards for the growing, processing, shipping, and selling of fruits and vegetables."

"I don't want it to complicate the trade environment," Mr. Clinton said. "I am not interested in trade in things that will make the American people sick."

"We are not trying to unfairly target foreign producers of food into our market," he said. "We don't ask them to meet any standard

we don't meet."

U.S. consumers increasingly have voiced concern about the quality of the food sold across the country, following a series of incidents including some cases of tainted meats.

Vice President Al Gore said that there were now 33 million cases of food poisoning every year in the United States, 9,000 of them fatal.

Iran carpet exports taking off again after slump

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's luxury carpet export industry is slowly recovering from a two-year slump after new rules allowed exporters to maximise foreign currency earnings.

Leading exporters said the value and volume of hand-woven and machine-made carpet sales to the main European, Arab Gulf and Canadian consumer markets were on the rise.

The rebound, if sustained, would be a major boost for Iran's non-oil economy as the industry is the country's main foreign exchange earner after the annual \$18 billion in oil revenue.

"Exports are rising because of the new export rules...we hope this is the beginning of the revival for Iranian carpets," Akbar Heristichian, president of the 420-member Iranian Carpet Exporters Association told Reuters.

In the last two months carpet exporters have been able to capitalise on new currency regulations that allow them to exchange their hard currency at preferential rates.

The exporters can now deposit their foreign currency earnings with the central bank which will issue them a trade certificate which they can then take to Tehran's stock exchange.

At the stock exchange they can use the certificate to get some 4,700 Iranian rials to the U.S. dollar, versus the official "export rate" of 3,000 rials and the government's own rate of 1,700, the traders said.

The 4,700 rate can usually be obtained only from Tehran's illegal street currency traders. In 1995, carpet exporters were forced to deposit all their currency with the central bank at the rate of 3,000

rials, leading to a drastic drop in official exports as firms saw little or no incentive in going through the central bank.

Carpet exporters can also import items from a list of 29 goods against their hard currency allocation, an attractive option given constantly rising prices for sought-after consumer goods in Iran.

"Now with the easing of regulations exports are on the rise. For the past four months there is a sign of increase," said Nosrattollah Mahmoudzadeh, director of Asil Carpet Co.

Exports of hand-woven carpets earned Iran \$130 million in the first three months of the Iranian year which began March 21, 21 per cent higher than the same period the previous year, according to government figures.

Government officials are targeting \$700 million to

\$800 million in sales this year, versus \$602 million in the last Iranian year which was 35 per cent down from the previous year.

Iranian carpets typically fetch anywhere between 200,000 rials to 50 million rials in overseas markets, traders said.

"We faced a crisis because of the constant changing in the regulations but in the last two months it has recovered," said one exporter who said his sales had grown between 10-20 per cent.

Despite the upturn, Iranian exporters will still struggle to recapture market share lost to other weavers particularly in India, Turkey and China.

Managers also admit that they will have to improve their marketing techniques and modify designs to better meet the changing tastes of key European buyers.

Iranian carpet did not defend itself in the European market. Many Europeans cannot tell the difference whether a carpet is made in Iran, India or China. It is a problem of marketing," said Mr. Mahmoudzadeh.

While in the mid-1970s Iran had more than a 50 per cent share in the world carpet market, this share had now fallen by half, a worrying development for the 2.5 million people directly involved in the industry.

Jordanian, Austrian officials review ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Chamber of Commerce President Haidar Murad Sunday discussed with Austria's ambassador to Jordan, Philipp Hoyos, and other Austrian officials economic and trade relations between Austria and Jordan.

Mr. Murad outlined to the visitors the various incentives and privileges offered to foreign investors in the Kingdom noting that the political stability and security which Jordan enjoys and its central geographical location are helping it in attracting investors.

Mr. Murad indicated that the package of laws on investment in Jordan and the newly introduced amendments concerning income tax and laws on treating foreign investors on equal footing with Jordanians have enabled the Kingdom to serve as a gate for businessmen from Austria and other countries to delve into the Middle East region.

Mr. Murad urged Jordanian businessmen to benefit from Austria's central European location as a way towards reaching European markets.

The ambassador, who was accompanied by another member of his embassy and an official at the Austrian chamber of commerce, said that bridges of cooperation between the private sectors in Austria and Jordan were of paramount importance for future bilateral cooperation.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	ITL	FRF	ESP	YEN
US Dollar	1.7555	0.6188	1.4465	122.10	1.3732	1721.28	1.9772	5.8886	
DE Mark	0.5699	1.0000	0.3520	0.8239	0.7618	978.94	1.1262	3.3597	
GB Sterling	1.6165	2.8380	1.0000	2.3400	197.21	2.2198	2782.42	3.1981	8.5361
CH Franc	0.8913	121.28	0.4271	1.0000	84.39	0.9487	1189.13	136.99	4.0750
JP Yen	0.0082	1.4368	0.5099	1.1837	1.1237	14.09	161.80	4.8270	
CA Dollar	0.7282	1.2817	0.4598	1.0558	1.12	1255.66	1.4438	4.3072	
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0193	0.3590	0.0840	1411.63	0.7973	1.41	3.4248	
NL Guilder	0.5058	88.74	0.3125	73.15	61.71	0.8942	870.11	2.8916	
FR Franc	0.1695	0.2975	0.1048	24.5103	20.68	0.2327	33.50	33.5000	

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAF	KWD	AED	QAR	IRF	EGP
US Dollar	1.7555	0.7090	3.7505	0.3770	3.6399	0.3042	3.6728	1536.00	3.3875
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.0000	5.2898	0.5317	5.1338	0.4290	5.1803	2188.43	4.7779
Saudi Riyal	0.2686	0.1890	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0811	0.98	408.55	0.9032
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8808	9.9491	1.0000	9.86	0.8088	9.74	4074.59	8.9891
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0304	1.0000	1.0036	1.01	41.49	0.9307	
Kuwait Dinar	3.2879	2.3311	12.3311	1.2394	11.97	12.05	5050.14	0.9307	
UAE Dirham	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	1.0026	0.9910	0.0828	1.48	0.9223	
Emirates/1000	0.65	0.4618	2.4417	0.2454	2.3897	0.1980	2.3911	2.2054	
Egyptian	0.2932	0.2093	1.1072	0.1113	1.0745	0.0898	1.0842	453.43	

Energy		
Oil	Last	Revised
Brent	21.85	20.46
W. Texas	22.83	22.83
Bonny	21.55	20.46
Dubai	19.20	19.19
UL Gas	197.00	187.00

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAF	KWD	AED	QAR	IRF	EGP
SA Riyal	0.2686	0.1890	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0811	0.98	408.55	0.9032
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	1.0026	0.9910	0.0828	1.48	0.9223	
KW Dinar	3.2879	2.3311	12.3311	1.2394	11.97	12.05	5050.14	0.9307	
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.2698	1.041	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	
CY Pound	1.8195	1.3897	1.1887	2.7766	234.37				

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1429	1.1488
DE Mark	0.4028	0.4048
CH Franc	0.4888	0.4912
FR Franc	0.1199	0.1205
JP Yen	0.5792	0.5821
NL Guilder	0.3578	0.3594
IT Lira	0.4108	0.4129

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Period	Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	4 Year	5 Year
USD	5.50	5.82	5.88	5.75	5.84				
GBP	7.15	7.08	7.19	7.31	7.43				
JPY	0.42	0.41	0.45	0.50	0.44				
DEM	3.15	3.27	3.45	3.38	3.73				
FRF	3.18	3.31	3.41	3.54	3.68				
CHF	1.19	1.41	1.43	1.58	1.68				
ITL	6.48	6.28	6.03	5.75	5.56				

Main Equity Indices									
Index	Value	Change	% Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Prev. Close	Vol.
New York	DOW JONES	8038.58	11.05	0.14	8144.4	7958.1	8027.5		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	17847.45	192.41	1.1	17888	17402	17455		
Paris	CAC 40	3094.01	41.94	1.37	3114	3060.4	3052.1		
Frankfurt	DAX	4273.71	76.73	1.83	4273.7	4247.7	4187.7		

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET														
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN														
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179														
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 05/10/1997														
PAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE					
346.000	241.500	ARAB BANK	15.5	1.18	2	180	60820	338.00	338.00	-				
N 2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	10.1	3.06	2	1050	3928	1.93	1.93	-				
5.800	4.100	CAIRO AMMAN BANK	6.2	0.00	1	800	5160	5.00	4.90	-10				
3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.2	0.00	1	800	2344	2.93	2.93	-				
1.190	890	MID. EAST TRV. INC.	9.7	0.00	5	950	937	0.97	0.97	-				
2.540	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	63.7	6.43	12	6650	16351	2.47	2.46	-01				
5.200	4.600	THE HOUSING BK.	14.7	3.94	1	200	986	4.93	4.93	-				
4.180	2.440	JOR. INVESTMENT BANK	11.3	0.00	1	400	1272	3.18	3.18	-				
1.050	740	JOR. GULF BANK	4.8	8.75	4	2800	2258	1.84	1.80	-04				
4.050	3.520	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.1	3.23	21	10100	37493	3.70	3.72	0.02				
1.530	1.110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	15.6	0.00	2	5100	6162	1.20	1.22	0.02				
2.050	1.890	BEIT AL-HAL (BEITRAM)	6	15.79	2	350	142	0.91	0.95	0.04				
5.150	3.800	ARAB BANKING CO.	17.6	0.00	4	478	1755	3.80	3.65	-15				
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 241.29 %CHG: -0.03 67 30894 139593														
2.170	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.2	8.11	1	250	463	1.84	1.85	0.01				
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 114.26 %CHG: +0.05 1 250 463														
2.050	1.550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.3	5.21	49	31268	59822	1.92	1.92	-				
N 8.750	7.800	JOR. TELECOM. INC.	12.0	0.00	1000	84000	84000	8.00	8.40	40				
3.850	1.320	IRSTD ELECTRICITY	2.6	2.88	7	5300	21205	3.85	4.00	15				
1.550	930	RATL. PORTFOLIO	0	0.00	4	1500	1996	1.33	1.34	0.01				
4.800	4.500	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	27.7	0.00	3	350	1890	5.54	5.54	-				
8.160	6.700	ALRA-1	10.0	6.89	3	381	1311	7.15	7.26	11				
1.740	1.150	MID. EAST HOTELS	21.5	0.00	16	5950	8212	1.34	1.41	0.07				
3.720	2.890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.3	0.00	13	6600	23328	3.54	3.55	0.01				
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 111.76 %CHG: +0.43 99 64324 201779														
4.450	3.220	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	25.1	2.95	12	2396	9937	3.78	3.73	-05				
11.040	9.070	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	10.6	8.11	16	1479	16274	10.98	10.96	-02				
3.260	1.620	INDUSTRIAL COMM. MOR.	9	0.00	3	218	355	1.64	1.63	0.01				
4.700	3.040	ARAB FIDUCI. MGMT.	12.6	4.36	15	2486	11402	4.59	4.59	-				
N 5.900	5.500	JOR. CEMENT INC.	5.5	0.00	5	595	6208	5.59	5.59	-28				
3.330	2.700	JOR. PAPER CARBON.	15.5	0.00	1	100	275	2.80	2.80	0.00				
6.000	4.300	OAR ALQAMA DV. INV.	14.3	4.27	9	3384	19802	5.90	5.85	-05				
3.950	2.220	ARAB ALUM. ZND.	5.6	10.50	2	400	955	2.45	2.38	-07				
1.450	1.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.8	0.00	27	24658	11648	1.50	1.51	0.01				
1.240	820	ARAB PAPER CONV. ZND.	25.4	0.00	7	1750	1468	1.84	1.83	-01				
1.770	510	NATIONAL INDS.	9	0.00	9	3850	2210	1.55	1.58	0.03				
1.200	510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEN.	9	0.00	10	3850	2215	1.55	1.57	0.02				
N 920	530	JOR. PETRO. CHEN.	9	0.00	3	3000	2100	1.67	1.67	-				
2.970	1.450	UNIV. CEMENT ZND.	12.8	7.04	2	200	284	1.45	1.42	-03				
1.890	530	JOR. SULPHO-CHEN.	9	0.00	16	14050	9592	1.66	1.69	0.03				
1.890	530	ARAB FRANCH. CHEN.	16.6	5.98	2	500	605	1.31	1.30	-01				
1.880	1.080	UNIV. INDO. INDS.	11.0	6.00	13	650	1170	1.24	1.22	-02				
1.460	900	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	12.1	11.11	10	1950	1755	1.90	1.90	-				
1.620	1.300	NATL. CHLORINE	14.8	4.46	1	250	393	1.56	1.57	0.01				
1.070	810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.6	0.00	15	7400	6221	1.84	1.85	0.01				
1.240	1.340	TEL. & FAX REPAIR	52.4	2.24	8	520	520	1.10	1.10	-				
1.200	1.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	50.9	0.00	3	1050	1169	1.12	1.12	0.00				
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 119.91 %CHG: -0.37 179 75100 108038														
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 174.70 %CHG: -0.12 346 170569 449872														
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 05/10/1997														
620	380	JOR. TRADE FAC.	11.7	0.00	36	109650	49246	1.46	1.44	-02				
780	660	UNION INV. 501	9	0.00	27	84724	21159	1.74	1.76	0.02				
1570	360	ARAB FID. INVEST.	17.0	0.00	17	4700	7000	4.40	4.40	-				
N 1.050	850	UNITED FOR FIDUCI. INV.	52.6	0.00	1	1000	1010	1.01	1.01	-				
680	200	JOR. INDS. MGMTS-VERCO	9	0.00	3	3000	730	1.25	1.24	-01				
490	490	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	2	1000	508	1.51	1.51	-				
750	600	NATL. MFG. IND. 100	16.0	0.00	5	1370	5721	1.61	1.61	-				
N 1.020	890	READY MIX CONCRETE	11.8	0.00	1	1000	98	0.97	0.98	0.01				
810	710	JORDAN STEEL	34.4	6.58	2	650	494	1.76	1.76	-				
460	460	ARAB ELECT. INDS.	8	0.00	2	100	391	1.66	1.66	-				
820	590	NATL. POULTRY	8	0.00	2	150	165	1.64	1.64	-				
N 1.000	690	NAT. ALUMINIUM 751	97.4	0.00	2	700	315	1.70	1.70	-				
N 1.020	720	ARAB INTL. FOOD PRCT.	46.8	0.00	7	7500	7180	1.92	1.97	0.05				
840	850	MID. EAST COMPLEX	7.6	16.13	3	850	520	1.62	1.62	-				



WBC Heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis from Great Britain (L) knocks down Poland's Andrew Golota in the first round of their WBC Championship fight at Caesars in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Lewis scored a TKO at 1:35 of the first round to retain the title (Reuters photo)

Lewis stuns Golota in 95 seconds

ATLANTIC CITY (AFP) — Britain's Lennox Lewis never looked so much like a champion. Andrew Golota never knew what hit him.

Lewis stopped his Polish rival in 95 seconds, the sixth-quickest rout in heavyweight history, to keep the World Boxing Council crown Saturday, putting himself in position to fight for a unified world title in 1998.

"Basically I wanted to go out and make my statement to the world that I am the best heavyweight and I wanted to intimidate everyone else," Lewis said. "I wanted to go out and prove myself, not worry about him."

Lewis rose to 32-1 while Golota fell to 28-3 with his third loss in a row. Golota was hospitalized and needed oxygen after the fight following what Golota manager Lou Duva called an anxiety attack.

Lewis sent a message to his possible unification foes, rival champions Evander Holyfield and Michael Moore, who fight next month in Las Vegas.

"I want to consolidate all the belts and keep them all for myself," Lewis said. "I

want to get rid of all the misfits and this was the last misfit."

Lewis won his prior two fights when Oliver McCall broke down crying in the ring and Henry Akinwande was disqualified for holding.

"I was denied great victories over McCall and Akinwande. This fight, I was really hungry for it," Lewis said. "I wanted to prove myself. I didn't want to go to the second round."

Golota had been disqualified from his two prior bouts for hitting Riddick Bowe in the groin and had a history of head-butting and biting when hurt in a fight.

"I didn't want to give him the chance to do anything dirty," Lewis said. "I didn't give him much of a chance to give me a fight."

When he gets hurt, he goes to old tactics — low blows, biting and head butts."

Golota said extensive talk about his low blows added to the pressure of his first title fight.

"I was a little too pressured, too nervous," Golota said. "A lot of things happened in the past. Everybody talked about it a

little too much. I can't make excuses. I lost the fight."

"I don't know what happened. I just got caught. What could I do?"

Nothing, Lewis gave him no chance, knocking him down twice, first with a pair of hard right hands to the head and the final time with a punishing series that forced Golota to the mat, covering up as he slumped to the ground.

"I noticed in the beginning he was tentative with his punches," Lewis said. "When I hit him, I knew it was the end. I took my time."

Referee Joe Cortez, knowing boxing could ill afford another black eye disqualification, let Golota go as long as he could.

"He was dazed, obviously, from the first knockdown," Cortez said. "He raised his hands. He wanted to go on. He wasn't rocky. I gave him every chance."

A sellout crowd of 13,889 mostly cheered for Golota, but Lewis left no doubts as to his superiority.

"I said it in the beginning — he's the best fighter I ever saw," said Lewis' trainer, Emanuel Steward. "And he's going back to his old days when he was a very aggressive fighter. He's a very accurate puncher."

Lewis received \$4 million for the fight. Golota received \$1.75 million.

Gascoigne sparks Rangers fightback

GLASGOW (AFP) — Paul Gascoigne sparked a remarkable fightback as Rangers came from two goals down for a 4-3 victory at Hibernian but Hearts stayed top of the Scottish Premier Division after an impressive 4-1 win at Motherwell on Saturday.

The England midfielder dragged the reigning champions — trailing 3-1 — back into the game at Easter Road with a stunning 20-yard free-kick six minutes into the second half.

A minute later German star Jorg Albertz equalised with a barrelling 25-yard drive into the corner and Italian ace Marco Negri completed the comeback with his second goal of the game to clinch the points in the 58th minute.

Hibs manager Jim Duffy, disappointed at the way his side had been beaten, saluted the quality of Rangers goals.

In particular he praised the efforts of Gascoigne and Albertz and said: "They were two wonder strikes into the postage stamp. When Gazza strikes a ball like that there's not a lot you can do about it."

Elsewhere, three goals from Frenchman Stephane Adam, Jim Hamilton and Neil McCann in an explosive first 20 minutes put Hearts on their way to a 4-1 victory at Motherwell and kept them firmly at the top of the table.

Motherwell were given a lifeline just on the strike of half-time when former Celtic and Republic of Ireland international Tommy Coyne rattled home his eighth goal of the season from the penalty spot before Hamilton settled the result with Hearts' fourth 19 minutes from time.

Celtic bounced back from the disappointment of being knocked out of the UEFA Cup by Liverpool in midweek with a resounding 4-0 victory over Kilmarnock at Parkhead.

Wim Jansen's team extended their unbeaten run to ten games with a fifth straight league win built around three goals in seven first half minutes from Swede Henrik Larsson, Simon Donnelly and Dane Morten Wieghorst.

St Johnstone's 1-0 victory over Aberdeen consigned the Dons to their worst start to the season in their 94-year history and will increase the pressure on under-fire manager Roy Aitken.

In the day's other Premier Division clash Dunfermline staged a remarkable fightback from three goals down to Dundee United at the end of the first half to finally square the match 3-3 in the 88th minute.

Japanese manager Kamo fired after World Cup qualifier draw

ALMATY (AFP) — Japan's national team manager Shu Kamo has been fired after Saturday's 1-1 draw with Kazakhstan in the Asian World Cup Group B qualifier at the Central Stadium.

"We were disappointed, because we couldn't win the last two games when we had a chance to win after taking the lead towards the end. The pattern was the same since the very first game," Japan Football Association president Ken Naganuma said.

"Our players have been also affected by the games against the United Arab Emirates and South Korea. We cannot turn the wave round if he continues to head the team."

On Saturday, the Japanese seemed to be on course for a 1-0 win when Kazakhstan's Viktor Zubarev struck the equaliser with the clock showing 46 minutes 26 seconds into the second half.

A week ago in Tokyo, the Japanese watched their 1-0 lead tumble into a 2-1 defeat to South Korea, allowing their archrivals to stage a come-from-behind victory in the last

six minutes.

Kamo, whose late defensive substitution was blamed for Japan failing to break a 0-0 deadlock against the Emirates last month, was also blamed for his defensive tactics when leading 1-0 against South Korea and Kazakhstan.

Japan now have one win, one defeat and two draws for five points to trail South Korea by seven points and the UAE by two points in the five-team round robin.

Coach Takeshi Okada, 40, will replace Kamo for the next game against Uzbekistan in Tashkent.

"We cannot play Uzbekistan without a manager. I'm going to concentrate on the next match. I don't change the tactics basically, but I'm going to modify a little according to our opponents," said Okada.

The winners from the two Asian qualifying groups go automatically through to the finals in France and the two second placed teams play off for a third spot. The losers of the play-off will play Australia for the last ticket.

Bergkamp a class apart as Gunners crush Barnsley

LONDON (AFP) — Arsenal bounced back from the despair of their UEFA Cup exit in midweek with a crushing 5-0 victory over English Premiership whipping boys Barnsley on Saturday to stay one point clear of Manchester United at the top of the table.

But United kept up the pressure on the leaders with a comfortable 2-0 win over Crystal Palace at Old Trafford while Blackburn moved into third after a hard-fought 1-0 win at Wimbledon.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger described Dennis Bergkamp as the best player in the world at the moment after watching another virtuoso display by the Dutch striker.

Bergkamp, who scored in Arsenal's frustrating 1-1 draw with PAOK Salonika on Tuesday, claimed a first-half double that put the Gunners on course for the easiest of wins over Barnsley at Highbury.

Those goals took his tally for the season to 11 and Wenger said: "It's difficult to say any more about Dennis."

"When I'm asked if he's the best in the world, I can't say he's not. Maybe somewhere there is a better player, but I don't know where."

"He makes it look so easy to score, even though he's scoring such spectacular goals — he scores the goals you expect from midfielders, but he doesn't need three touches, just two or even one."

A 17th-minute opener by Teddy Sheringham set Manchester United on their way to victory before Icelandic defender Herman Hreidarsson put the ball into his own net 12 minutes later to seal United's sixth league win of the season.

Palace, though, mounted a spirited fightback but could find no way past United's goalkeeper.

Peter Schmeichel, who was in spectacular form, Ferguson paid tribute to the giant Dane, adding: "Peter Schmeichel was fantastic and in that kind of form his is unbeatable, but I felt that if Palace had scored, we still had it in us to go up a gear or two again."

Newcastle boss Kenny Dalglish took a swipe at Tottenham after the London club refused his request to postpone the game by 24 hours to allow his side to recover from an exhausting Champions League trip to Dynamo Kiev in midweek.

Newcastle, without key striker Faustino Asprilla, had to wait until the dying seconds of the game before Warren Barton secured all three points for the Magpies.

Dalglish said: "I have two reasons to be happy that we won — one was the way we played and the other was for



Crystal Palace's Paul Warhurst (C) challenges Manchester United's Nicky Butt (R) while Gary Palister looks on during their match, October 4. The game at Old Trafford is part of the FA Premiership (Reuters photo)

them refusing to change the fixture.

Aston Villa boss Brian Little said he had no complaints after Stan Collymore was sent off during a 1-0 victory at struggling Bolton.

The out-of-form England striker, signed for a club record seven million pounds (about \$12 million) from Liverpool in the summer, was sent off in the final minute, along with Andy Todd, for fighting.

Savo Milosevic, who hit the winner against Bordeaux in the UEFA Cup on Tuesday, scored the only goal after 12 minutes to send Bolton crashing to their first defeat at their new stadium.

Chris Sutton scored his 10th goal of the season as Blackburn moved into third place with a 1-0 win at Wimbledon.

Blackburn manager Roy Hodgson said his rejuvenated striker, ignored by England coach Glenn Hoddle in his latest squad, deserved international recognition.

Hodgson said: "Chris is as good a front player as I have worked with. His touch is excellent, and on top of that he scores goals."

Elsewhere, Leeds goalkeeper Nigel Martyn pulled off a string of spectacular saves to deny Coventry victory in a goalless draw at Highbury Road.

Sheffield Wednesday's

diminutive Italian striker Benito Carbone struck two late goals to ease the pressure on manager David Pleat and seal a 3-1 victory over Everton at Hillsborough.

Everton youngster Danny Cadamarteri grabbed an 84th-minute goal but a brilliant effort from Paolo Di Canio ended Everton manager Howard Kendall's

hopes of a comeback.

Egil Olsenstad lifted Southampton off the foot of the table with a clinical finish to set up a 3-0 win over West Ham at the Dell.

Southampton clinched the points when Kevin Davies scored with 25 minutes left and captain Jason Dodd completed a comfortable win on 68 minutes.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TARIKH HIRSHI

HANDLE WITH CARE

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH

♠ A 10 8

♥ K 9 8

♦ A K 10 8 5

WEST

♠ Q 4

♥ J 8 5 4

♦ 8 8 3

♣ 7 4 3

SOUTH

♠ 7 6 5

♥ A Q 10 7 2

♦ K 10 7 4

♣ 9

The bidding:

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

In Giorgio Belladonna, Pietro Forquet and Benito Garozzo, the

legendary Italian Star Team had

three stars whose card-play would

place them on everybody's list of the

top 10. Here's an example of Garozzo,

now a resident of West Palm

Beach, at work in a match between

Italy and Ireland.

Four hearts was a routine contract to reach. To make it was another matter.

West led the queen of spades, and Garozzo rose with the ace to protect against the possibility that East held a six-card suit. The ace and king of clubs were cashed for a spade discard, a club was ruffed and a diamond was led to the queen and ace.

East cashed the king of spades and continued with the jack, forcing Garozzo to ruff high to prevent an overruff. West discarded a diamond, reducing that defender to five trumps and one diamond. The king of diamonds was cashed and, when declarer led another diamond, West was forced to ruff low.

Declarer overruffed with dummy's nine, cashed the king of hearts and, with the hand on open book, exited with a club from the table, discarding a diamond from hand.

West was forced to ruff and led a trump away from the jack into declarer's Q 10 tenace. In all, declarer scored three high trumps, two ruffs in hand, one ruff in dummy, one spade, one diamond and, two clubs to just make the heart game. A virtuoso performance.

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CINEMA	TEL: 634144	TEL: 634144	TEL: 699238	TEL: 677420	TEL: 079 33430	TEL: 079 33430	TEL: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA "1"	PHILADELPHIA "2"	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	
TODAY AT	Bruce Willis...in THE FIFTH ELEMENT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Eddie Murphy...in THE NUTTY PROFESSOR Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Paul Hogan...in FLIPPER Shows: 12:30, 3:30	Curt Russel...in CAPTAIN RON Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Hugh Grant & Mr. Bean...in FOUR WEDDINGS & A FUNERAL (12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30) CONCORD "2" MONKEY TROUBLE Shows: 3:30, 5:45 only	ABDOUN John Travolta & Nicolas Cage...in FACE OFF Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45	ABDOUN Julia Roberts...in MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Hisham Yanes Theatre THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dubbas



Cleveland Indians' Manny Ramirez breaks his bat as he hits a ball in the fourth inning of the Division Series 3 game in Cleveland's Jacobs Field, October 4. Ramirez reached first base on an error by Yankees third baseman Charlie Hayes on the play (Reuters photo)

Yankees edge ahead as Seattle cling to hope

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The World Series champion New York Yankees edged ahead of Cleveland in their American League Division Series Saturday while the Seattle Mariners staved off elimination.

The Yankees, who split the first two games of the best-of-five first-round series with the Indians in New York, defeated Cleveland in Cleveland to take a 2-1 lead.

Seattle who lost both of their opening games at home to the Orioles, stayed alive with a 4-2 win in Baltimore.

Jeff Fassero allowed one run over eight-plus innings and Jay Buhner and Paul Sorrento hit consecutive homers for the Mariners.

Roberto Kelly and Ken Griffey Jr added run-scoring hits for the Mariners, who are trying to become just the fifth team to win a best-of-five series when trailing 0-2. Seattle, which accomplished the feat against the New York Yankees in 1995, can become the first team to do it twice and the first to do it by winning three straight on the road.

Fassero, a 34-year-old making his first career postseason start, retired 18 straight batters and left with a 4-0 lead after walking Geronimo Berroa to open the ninth.

"This is the biggest game I've pitched in my life. It's the biggest day in my life," said Fassero, who joined Seattle this season after six

years with Montreal. "Was I nervous? No. It's just that I never pitched in postseason before."

Heathcliff Slocum relieved and got the last three outs, but not before allowing a two-out, two-run double to Jeffrey Hammonds.

Slocum then brought some redemption to the Mariners' beleaguered bullpen by getting pinch-hitter Harold Baines to pop out to shortstop to end the game.

Kelly had a run-scoring double in the third and Griffey singled home a run in the fifth off Jimmy Key before the Mariners padded their lead on one-out, opposite-field home runs in the ninth off Terry Matthews.

The extra runs provided a much-needed cushion to a Seattle bullpen that blew a major league-high 27 saves this season and has been charged with 11 runs in the first two games of the series.

In Cleveland, David Wells pitched a five-hitter and Paul O'Neill hit the first postseason grand slam for the New York Yankees in 33 years in the 6-1 win over the Indians.

The Yankees won their ninth straight postseason road game and will try to close out the best-of-five series on Sunday night at Jacobs Field.

Wells lost five straight starts at one point late in the year and almost was left out of the playoff rotation. But the 34-year-old left-hander

instead showed the form that enabled him to win a career-best 16 games in 1997.

Wells retired 14 of the final 15 batters he faced and did not walk a batter. His only strikeout came when he fanned Sandy Alomar Jr to end the game as he improved to 4-0 lifetime in postseason play.

Cleveland starter Charles Nagy once again could not handle the Yankees, allowing five runs and walking six in just 3 2/3 innings.

He fell to 0-3 with a 15.63 ERA in four starts against New York this season and left immediately before O'Neill bopped off Chad Ogea in the fourth inning.

The Yankees had just four hits and the grand slam by O'Neill was the only hit of the fourth. Joe Girardi walked with one out and advanced on a groundout by Rey Sanchez. Tim Lincecum worked the count to 2-0 before being intentionally walked and Nagy walked Derek Jeter on four pitches to load the bases.

Ogea relieved and O'Neill worked the right-bander to a full count before blasting an off-speed pitch over the center-field fence for his second homer of the series and the seventh of his postseason career, giving the Yankees a 6-1 lead.

It was the Yankees' first postseason grand slam since Joe Pepitone in Game Six of the 1964 World Series against St. Louis.

Ikpeba goal salvages draw for Monaco

PARIS (AFP) — Monaco's Nigerian striker Victor Ikpeba scored his seventh goal of the season — his third in two matches — and secured the champions a late point from a 1-1 draw away to bottom side Le Havre in the latest round of the French championship on Saturday.

Monaco's two dropped points could prove costly as both the top two sides, Metz and Paris Saint-Germain, have the chance to pick up further points when they play away at Strasbourg and Nantes respectively on Sunday.

Monaco, who started the day in fourth place, slipped down the table after being overhauled by Bordeaux, who had Lillian Laslandes to thank for a late goal in their 1-0 win over Montpellier. Bastia, who posted a 5-1 win over Cannes, and Lens, who beat new boys Chateauroux 1-0.

Ikpeba, who scored twice for Monaco in their Champions League win over Bayer Leverkusen on Wednesday, played a delightful 1-2 with Scottish playmaker John Collins and netted in reply to former Paris Saint Germain striker Cyrille Pouget's header in the 75th minute.

Pouget, capped three times by France, had risen at the far post to head past Stephane Porato, the stand-in keeper for French international Fabien Barthez — who was injured in Wednesday's Champions League win over Bayer Leverkusen.

Bastia followed up their excellent UEFA Cup triumph over Portuguese giants Benfica on Tuesday with the performance of the evening, rattling five past the unfortunate Cannes 'keeper Sebastien Frey — leaving the Riviera club bottom of the league.

Bastia's Slovenian striker Ermin Siljak led the way with a brace before half-time, one a penalty, and the rout was rounded off with an excellent free-kick from Frank Jurcic.

Auxerre's Stephane Guivarc'h celebrated his call up to the French squad for the friendly against South Africa by grabbing two of his side's goals in their 4-0 thrashing of his former club Rennes, who were reduced to 10 men when Marco Di Costanzo was sent off for a second bookable offence midway through the first half.

The 27-year-old Guivarc'h, who joined Ikpeba and Paris Saint Germain's Marco Simone on top of the goalscorers' standings, cracked home a penalty on the stroke of half-time and followed it up with a superb individual effort, chesting down Bernard Diomedes' cross and rifling home a left-footed shot. Antoine Sibierski had opened the scoring in the 13th minute for the 1996 champions.

Guivarc'h then turned provider, crossing from the left for Sibierski to head the ball on for substitute Fabrice LePaul to hit home.

Olympique Marseille managed a 2-0 win over Toulouse despite being without new signing Fabrizio Ravanelli.

The 'White Feather', signed for a reported five million pounds from Middlesbrough on September 25, had to pull out of making his debut because of a bout of 'flu.

Peintre Celebre wins Arc with masterful display

PARIS (AFP) — Peintre Celebre put up a masterful display here at Longchamp racecourse on Sunday easing home by five lengths to give jockey Olivier Peslier his second successive Arc de Triomphe win — winning in a time of 2min 24.23 seconds breaking the 10-year-old race record by two seconds.

The winner, the only three-year-old colt in the field, was in an impossible position early in the false straight but Peslier eased him out to coast past the leader Helissio and beat Pilsudski, second as he was last year, while German filly Borgia nosed home third ahead of Oscar Schindler — last year's winner Helissio could only finish sixth.

The winner's trainer Andre Fabre, winning his fourth Arc, gave a rare smile as he greeted Peintre Celebre into the paddock and his smile grew broader as Peslier did a somersault off the horse.

"This is the finest middle distance horse I have trained and while I don't want to take anything away from Tremolino (the previous record holder and 1987 Arc winner) this is something special," Fabre said.

Peslier, who also won the 1996 Arc by five lengths, was in typically exuberant form.

"I had trouble in getting out but once he was free boy did he move! I have not ridden a better horse than this and when you consider I rode Helissio last year that is saying something," Peslier said.

Peintre Celebre, giving 80-year-old French owner Daniel Wildenstein his fourth Arc triumph, was pushed out by Peslier from the off to track Helissio and Busy Flight the early leaders.

Helissio, bidding to become the first horse in 20 years to win successive Arcs, took up the running after four furlongs under Dominique Boeuf and opened up a three length lead.

Helissio, who had lost the services of Peslier when he was claimed by Wildenstein for the winner, led well into the final straight but once Peslier had let Peintre Celebre free the 1996 winner had no response.

Boeuf desperately tried to rally Helissio for at least a place but the four-year-old colt threw his head up in the air, a sign of a horse giving up, and first Pilsudski and then a wall of horses led by Borgia, ridden by Kieren Fallon for trainer Bruno Schatz and giving Germany their best result in the race since Star Appeal won in 1975. Irish horse Oscar Schindler, ridden by Cash Asmussen, and Predappio swept past him.

Michael Stoute, the Barbados born trainer of Pilsudski, paid tribute to his five-year-old's performance.

"He ran another great race and finished clear of the rest (2 1/2 lengths) but we were beaten by a great racehorse and that says it all about our boy," Stoute said.

Asmussen, who had been jockeyed off Helissio, carried on his personal battle with Peslier, who he blamed for losing the ride on Helissio, by shadowing the French champion jockey throughout the race but was unable to go with the blistering pace of the winner — his fourth place was one worse than he had finished last year.

For Wildenstein it represented a volte face as after Peintre Celebre had won the French Derby in June his son had said that the Arc was underpromoted and a small race and the Breeders Cup in America would represent a much better target but at 80-years-old Wildenstein senior preferred in the end to see his blue colours carried to another Arc triumph.

Sadly for European racegoers they will probably not see Peintre Celebre again as he has been sold to stand in Ireland as a stallion in the legendary Coolmore Stud.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Orthodox take U-16 title

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Orthodox took the Under-16 basketball title Saturday after beating Al Jazireh 83-64. Al Ahli came second and Al Jazireh third. It was the second title in a week for Al Orthodox who beat Al Jazireh 66-56 last week to take the women's title in the three-team championship in which Al Ahli came second and Al Jazireh third.

Tottenham pair stuck in toilet

NEWCASTLE (AFP) — Tottenham Hotspur started the second half of their English Premiership match with Newcastle United with only nine players on Saturday after star strikers Les Ferdinand and Ruel Fox were stuck in the toilet when the referee restarted the game. The pair ran out onto the pitch shortly after the game kicked off without getting permission from the referee's assistant. Francis said: "Ferdinand and Fox were both in the toilets and you can't stop the referee from restarting the game. "So we were trying to get them out there as quick as possible but they were stuck in the toilets." Tottenham survived the few moments without the two players but eventually lost 1-0 following a last-minute goal by Newcastle's Warren Barton.

Courier wins China title

BEIJING (AFP) — U.S. top seed Jim Courier, playing in China for the first time, beat Magnus Gustafsson in three sets to claim the men's singles title at the \$328,000 China Open here Sunday. The former World No. 1 finished off the fifth-seeded Swede 7-6, 3-6, 6-3.

Maldini sees future in London

MILAN (AFP) — AC Milan and Italy skipper Paolo Maldini teased English clubs on Sunday by revealing he would

like to quit the Serie A and play in the Premiership. But only in six years' time, when he will be 35. Maldini, 29, who was reportedly sounded out by English clubs over the summer, has a contract with Milan until 2001 and reckons that, if he was fit enough, he would continue here until he was 35. Asked what the defender would do then, Maldini told the Gazzetta dello Sport: "I would like to play abroad. And I find London fascinating." The capital is already home to Chelsea's three Italians — Gianfranco Zola, Roberto Di Matteo and Gianluca Vialli — and Crystal Palace's Attilio Lombardo.

2 Germans out of World Cup match

BONN (AFP) — Midfielder Lars Ricken and defender Christian Worns will both miss Germany's World Cup qualifying match against Albania on October 11. Borussia Dortmund's Ricken was taken to a Bielefeld hospital with suspected torn ankle ligaments during his team's 3-1 Bundesliga loss to Arminia Bielefeld on Saturday. His teammate Jorg Heinrich is also doubtful for the Albania game because of a thigh injury. Worns rested a sore upper leg muscle on Wednesday when Bayer Leverkusen were saved 4-0 by Monaco in the European Champions League. He came back for Saturday's 2-1 Bundesliga win over Duising but aggravated the injury and had to leave the field just before half-time.

Hrbaty stuns Corretja

PALERMO (AFP) — Fast-rising Slovak teenager Dominik Hrbaty stunned top-seeded Alex Corretja in straight sets Saturday to advance to the final of the Palermo ATP Tour event. Hrbaty, a 19-year-old whose ranking has improved to 44th in the world, downed world No.9 Corretja 6-4, 6-4 to earn a meeting with another Spaniard, second-seeded Alberto Berasategui, in the final.

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Auxerre's Stephane Guivarc'h celebrated his call up to the French squad for the friendly against South Africa by grabbing two of his side's goals in their 4-0 thrashing of his former club Rennes, who were reduced to 10 men when Marco Di Costanzo was sent off for a second bookable offence midway through the first half.

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Job Announcement

The Welfare Association is seeking a Project Director for the design and implementation of a study to develop a national health education plan for Palestine.

Overview of Activities: The Project Director will be responsible for the design and implementation of a study to develop a national health education plan for Palestine under the auspices of the Ministries of Health and Higher Education.

Job tasks interalia include:

1. Development of a study design and methodologies.
2. Supervision of the performance of local researchers and field workers.
3. Collection and analysis of data.
4. Consultation and coordination with individuals and institutions in the Palestinian health field.
5. Organization of regional and national workshops related to health education planning.
6. Facilitate and coordinate the activities of external consultants.
7. Work closely with the welfare association, the overall project coordinator, and appropriate committees and ministries.
8. Design a national health education plan with priorities, costing, and time table for implementation.

Qualifications: Applicants should have excellent command of Arabic and English, computer skills, able to travel to Palestine, holders of MPH, MD or Ph.D. degrees or equivalent and have had experience in similar national projects.

Formal training or experience in health education desired.

Place of work: Ramalla **Duration:** 15 months

If interested send CV and names of three references by Oct. 15, 1997 to:

Welfare Services Ltd.
P.O.Box 840888
Amman 11184 - Jordan
or to fax # (06) 5526902

King receives credentials of new ambassadors



His Majesty King Hussein receives the credentials of newly appointed Omani ambassador to Jordan, Hamad Ben Hilal Al Mimari, at the Raghadan Palace, Sunday (All photos by Petra)



Tunisian Ambassador Munsef Lawati



Austrian Ambassador Philipp Hoyos



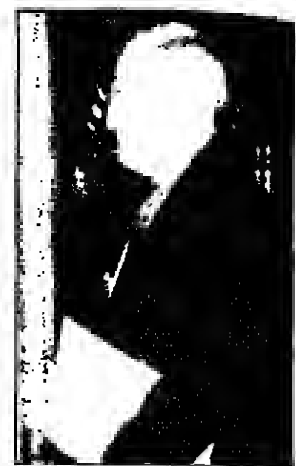
South Korean Envoy Lee Kyung Woo



Ambassador of Djibouti Adris Ahmad Shruu



Ambassador of Senegal Abdul Ahad Mbaki



Ambassador of Israel Oded Eran

Israeli press holds Netanyahu responsible for Mossad fiasco

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli press commentators said Sunday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu must be held responsible for the disastrous consequences of a failed assassination attempt in Jordan by presumed Israeli secret agents.

Breaking a three-day silence imposed by the Rosh Hashana, Jewish New Year holiday, Israeli newspapers published banner headlines and widespread commentary about the botched attempt 10 days ago in Amman to kill Khaled Misha'al, a Hamas politburo chief.

The Israeli cabinet met Sunday morning to discuss the affair, Israel Radio said. Two suspected agents of the Israeli spy service Mossad were captured after administering a mysterious poison to Mr. Misha'al on an Amman street on September 25.

King Hussein responded by reportedly threatening to break diplomatic ties with Israel and successfully demanding the release of

Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin from an Israeli prison.

"The botched assassination... has caused the country serious strategic damage," wrote Zeev Schiff, the respected military commentator of the Haaretz newspaper.

"It is inconceivable that a failure of such magnitude and such strategic blindness be allowed to pass without those responsible resigning or being fired," he wrote. "In well ordered countries, prime ministers and cabinet ministers resign over such things."

"The full responsibility belongs at the top, namely the prime minister who is responsible for strategy and for the immense failures beyond the operational one," he said. The prime minister is directly responsible for Mossad and according to foreign press reports must approve all operations such as the attempted murder of Mr. Misha'al.

Military commentator Schiff said the affair not only

damaged relations with Jordan and King Hussein but undermined the very war on terror the operation was meant to further.

"The failure will encourage acts of terror against Israel and will further diminish the Palestinian [National] Authority's readiness to cooperate in the war against Hamas," he said.

The centre-right Maariv newspaper demanded that Mr. Netanyahu "immediately announce the creation of an official investigative committee headed by a supreme court judge so that all those responsible pay for this error."

The Yediot Ahronot also noted that when he came to office in 1996, Mr. Netanyahu "vowed not to order attacks or kidnappings of terrorists because they simply spark retaliation, but he later changed his mind."

"The operation in Amman was wrong both for the choice of its location and its target," Yediot wrote.

"Mossad operates under the prime minister, and he must confront the political ramifications," the editorial said, predicting that Mr. Netanyahu will nevertheless survive the scandal thanks to support from far-right neo-fascists.

The right-leaning Jerusalem Post for its part supported the principle of hitting out at those held responsible for terrorism, but strongly criticised the attack on Mr. Misha'al.

"Given the special ties between Israel and Jordan... it is almost inconceivable that Israel's leadership would risk any move which has the potential of seriously damaging Israeli-Jordanian ties," it wrote.

The newspaper noted that Jordan also "suffers from the destabilising influence of Islamist groups" and that any hint of Israeli-Jordanian cooperation in an attack on Hamas would be "extremely serious for the stability" of the country (See story on page 1).

Opposition parties demand recalling of envoy to Israel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Opposition parties Sunday urged the government to recall the Jordanian ambassador in Israel and reconsider the peace treaty following an alleged assassination attempt of the Hamas top leader, Khaled Misha'al, on Sept. 24.

The parties' statement accused the government of covering up the assault against Mr. Misha'al.

"The attempt to assassinate Khaled Misha'al... is a crime in a series of terror acts well planned and executed in day light. It is part and parcel of larger operations to eradicate the Palestinian people and end their cause," the two-page statement said.

The statement was the first

popular reaction over the alleged assassination attempt against the Hamas politburo chief. Two Canadian passport holders were arrested in connection to the attempt on Mr. Misha'al's life.

"The Zionist and racist [intelligence] agencies did not respect neither the sovereignty nor the laws [of Jordan], but on the contrary resorted to state terrorism supported by the United States," the statement added.

"The Zionist crime is committed in Amman despite Israel's claims of friendship and regional security coordination as stated in the peace treaty," the statement said.

"This crime has targeted the [Jordan's] national security and violates all laws and norms. We believe that the Jordanian government has not reacted according to the

rules of sovereignty," the statement said.

"Instead, the government has decided to conceal the crime, something which causes fury among the Jordanian people."

The statement, signed by the nine parties that announced their boycott to Nov. 4 parliamentary elections, professional unions and independents, called on the government to reveal the outcome of the interrogation.

It also urged the government to transfer the case to the criminal court.

The statement hailed the Canadian government for being "more forceful than the Jordanian government" and urged Ottawa to continue its investigations and take appropriate action against Israel.

Clinton takes a spin at secret service training facility

BELTSVILLE (R) — For a guy who seldom drives, President Clinton can handle a Camaro, according to the White House.

The president got behind the wheel of a Camaro sports car in the secure surroundings of a U.S. Secret Service training facility. Clinton, who is normally chauffeured by secret service agents, demonstrated a quick 180-degree manoeuvre called a "J-Turn."

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said, "The president impressed everyone with a J-Turn." Lockhart said, "Reporters were not allowed to view the president's driving or any other activities during his visit to the secret service's James J. Rowley Training Centre in a wooded section of Beltsville, Maryland."

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Peace process faces 'great dangers...' because of policies lacking sensibility

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak said Sunday that the Middle East peace process faces "great dangers" because of Israel's refusal to abide by earlier agreements with the Palestinians.

In a speech marking the anniversary of the 1973 Middle East war, Mr. Mubarak never referred to Israel by name. But most of his comments appeared directed at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"There are great dangers... because of policies lacking sensibility — wise, far-sighted viewpoints — and the clear abstinence by agreements that have been signed," President Mubarak said.

He said that both sides felt despair because of the cycle

of violence in which terrorist acts sparked "exaggerated reactions to these acts like collective punishments, closures and starvation" which, in turn, led to more terrorist acts.

"If efforts are not combined on all sides to save the process from the current freeze... the future will be full of grave dangers with immeasurable consequences," the president warned.

The Palestinians have been angered by Israel's refusal to implement agreements it signed with Mr. Netanyahu's predecessor, including the pullback of Israeli troops from rural areas of the West Bank.

They also have criticised Israel for closing the Palestinian territories following two Jerusalem

bombings that took the lives of 26 people, including five bombers.

The talks have been stalemate since March when Mr. Netanyahu's government went ahead with the construction of a new Jewish settlement on the hilltop of Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians want as the capital of their future state.

The Americans are trying to get the two sides back together, and U.S. envoy Dennis Ross was to arrive in Israel Monday to meet with Israeli and Palestinian officials.

President Mubarak said he was "putting great hope" into American efforts to revive the peace talks.

He also said that Egypt's performance in the war in 1973 paved the way for the

peace process.

On Oct. 6, 1973, Egyptian forces retook the Suez Canal from the Israelis. It kept the canal under a disengagement agreement the following January.

"Without the ability of the Egyptian armed forces, it would not have been possible to convince the other side to start negotiations that would realise a just and comprehensive peace in the region," Mr. Mubarak said.

"The war also proved that it is impossible that war be the only way to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict," he added.

In 1977, President Anwar Sadat flew to Israel to begin a process that culminated in Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, the first between the Israel and an Arab country.

ALGIERS (AFP) — The Algerian army has gone on the offensive against hard-line Islamists in an operation south of Algiers, after the insurgents fired mortars on a town for the first time.

The army invited Algerian journalists to watch Saturday as tanks shelled Ouled Aïel, a stronghold of the banned Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

In a sharp escalation of Algerian violence, Islamists late Friday rained home-made mortar shells on the garrison town of Blida, south of Algiers, from a nearby mountain, killing six and raising the two-day toll to 95, according to reports Saturday.

Witnesses and hospital staff said the mortar attack Friday night killed six and wounded at least 50.

The attack was unprecedented in Algeria, which has seen a series of massacres in recent weeks, raising the stakes to a five-year conflict that has killed more than 60,000 people, according to Western estimates.

On Thursday and Friday at least 89 were killed, some hacked to death or decapitated, in serial massacres in the regions of Medea, Oran, and the Algerian capital, according to press reports.

The attacks have been widely seen as a challenge by the GIA which is opposed to a ceasefire called last Wednesday by the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the Islamic Salvation Front's (FIS) military wing.

Algeria's Islamist rebels have on heavy weapons. They often resort to using home-made mortars, but the attack in Blida 40 kilometres south of Algiers was the most violent yet against a town.

In all, 14 shells hit the town centre. Five people playing dominoes were killed where they sat, and a sixth died later from his wounds, hospital staff said.

Algerian press reports Saturday told how reporters had been allowed to watch as the army continued a ten-day old operation in the area south of Algiers.

The press quoted army spokesmen as saying that Islamic extremists from outside Algeria were fighting with the GIA against the army.

The papers Sunday published photos of soldiers in action, tanks on the move, in what observers said appeared to be a publicity drive by the army. The army has regularly been criticised by the national press for failing to take the fight to the Islamist groups.

The operation taking place south of Algiers has been going on for almost two weeks in an area of some 50-square kilometres, according to a general whose name was not released, cited by the press.

The goal of the operation is the recapture of Ouled Aïel, he said.

Some 8,000 inhabitants of the town fled in 1994 when a tract appeared on the walls of the local mosque demanding their departure. Those who stayed were reportedly killed, their throats cut.

Britain's Blair to appear in Russian radio soap

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair will take a brief role playing himself in a Russian radio "soap" when he visits Moscow on Monday, newspapers reported.

Blair will step out of his limousine while driving through Moscow to help pick up shopping dropped by Varyia, a star of the long-running "Dom 7, Podjezd 4" (House Seven, Entrance Four), and chat with her about the problems of ordinary people in today's Russia.

Blair is due to meet President Boris Yeltsin on Monday. British officials see the cameo appearance as a good way to project Blair's two-day visit to Russia, during which he will promote business links and cooperation in fighting crime, according to British newspapers.

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Iran threatens more raids on opposition bases in Iraq

DUBAI (AFP) — Iran Sunday threatened to carry out more raids on Iranian opposition bases across the border in Iraq, after an air strike which prompted the U.S. to rush an aircraft carrier back to the Gulf.

"So long as terrorist groups conduct operations against our territory, it will be our right to defend ourselves," Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi told the London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat.

"We have said many times we cannot tolerate terrorist attacks from across the border on our villages and pipelines," he said. "That is why we decided to carry out a raid on their camps to defend ourselves, which is our right."

The U.S. said Friday it had dispatched an aircraft carrier battle group to the Gulf in the wake of Iran's incursion into a "no-fly zone" in southern

Iraq to carry out the raids on the opposition Mujahedin Khalq (People's Mujahedin).

The accelerated deployment of the USS Nimitz and accompanying warships "is related to our ability to carry out the responsibility given to us by the international community," White House spokesman Michael McCurry said.

The U.S. has warned that the incursions into the no-fly zone could put Iranian pilots at risk.

The Nimitz, skipping a port call in Singapore, was now expected to arrive in six days, rather than mid-October as scheduled, U.S. Defence Department spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Friday.

"It's going over there to show we're serious about enforcing the no-fly zone," he said.

Iran has protested over the raids carried out on Sept. 29 and called for a ban on Iraqi

flights in the south and north of the country to be lifted to allow it to defend itself.

The "no-fly zones" for Iraqi aircraft were imposed by the U.S. and its allies following the 1991 Gulf war.

The Mujahedin said Iran's warplanes struck two of its bases near the border, south-east and north-east of the capital. It was Iran's first air strike since 1993 but the group has been the target of several attacks by land.

The raid came three days after a meeting in New York between Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Sahhaf and Mr. Kharazi on normalising relations between the two countries, which fought a 1980-1988 war.

Mr. Kharazi, in the interview with Al Hayat, ruled out a halt to such dialogue. "We must try to open doors," he said.



WEARING THE ARMOUR OF GOD: James Mace of Oklahoma City, wearing what he called the spiritual armour of God, attracts attention at the Promise Keepers rally, Saturday. Hundreds of thousands of evangelical Christian men attended what may be the largest religious gathering ever in the U.S. (Reuters photo)

Mandela secretary posed for Hustler to put food on table

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela's former secretary, who caused a stir by posing nude for South Africa's Hustler porn magazine, has been found guilty of misconduct in an official hearing, a report said.

Lilian Arrison, 32, caused a sensation when she posed in the buff for Hustler's November 1996 issue and disclosed details about Mandela's relationship with his sweetheart, former Mozambique first lady Graca Machel. An official hearing, chaired by advocate Marius Heide, found that Arrison embarrassed the president's office with the act.

Johannesburg's Sunday Times reported, Arrison who said she posed for the magazine to put food on the table and pay medical bills for her six-year-old son, may now be deported or transferred, the newspaper said.

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